

APPROVED  
15-2003

Rockville, Maryland  
March 24, 2003

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on March 24, 2003, at 7:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present:                   Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President  
  in the Chair  
  Mr. Kermit V. Burnett  
  Ms. Sharon Cox  
  Mr. Reginald M. Felton  
  Dr. Charles Haughey  
  Mr. Walter Lange  
  Mr. Gabe Romero  
  Mr. Mihyar Alnifaidy, Student Board Member  
  Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:           None

# or ( ) indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 136-03           Re:   **CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on March 24, 2003, in Room 120 from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss an appointment, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on March 24, 2003, to acquit its executive functions and to adjudicate and review appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That portions of the meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 137-03           Re:   **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by

Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for March 24, 2003.

RESOLUTION NO. 138-03            Re:    **NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Lange seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, Children's experiences with language and literacy during the first five years of life form the basis for later success as readers and learners; and

WHEREAS, Early experiences in the home, child care setting, school, and the community have a lifelong impact on a child's reading and writing proficiency; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County recognizes that every county resident has a stake in the healthy growth, development, and education of all young children; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County is implementing a comprehensive and collaborative community-wide early childhood initiative to ensure that family-focused programs and services for young children are neighborhood-based, effective, and responsive to cultural diversity; make a measurable, positive difference in children's well being; and help young children prepare for school; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County is implementing a collaborative, community-wide early childhood initiative and the Montgomery County Board of Education; the Montgomery County Executive; the Montgomery County Council; and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families wish to participate in a joint proclamation for the *Month of the Young Child*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a joint proclamation for the *Month of the Young Child* will occur on March 27, 2003, at Maryvale Elementary School.

RESOLUTION NO. 139-03            Re:    **ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The members of the Board of Education are committed to preparing all students for life and work in a global multicultural world and actively seek and value the contributions of people of all races and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 3 million Arab Americans residing in the United States whose influence has been increasingly evident since the end of the nineteenth

century; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan and Montgomery County Council President Michael L. Subin jointly recognize April as Arab American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County is home to a thriving Arab American community whose valued presence has contributed to the rich cultural diversity of our community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent, staff, students, and parents of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the members of the Board of Education hereby declare the month of April 2003 to be observed as Arab American Heritage Month.

**Re: UPDATE ON LEGISLATION**

Ms. Lori Rogovin, legislative aide, reported the following:

1. HB 718 – *Home School and Private School Children – Extracurricular Academic Activities* – two similar bills were reported unfavorable, and one was amended into a task force.
2. HB 11 – *Charter Schools* – was turned down by the Senate.
3. HB 870 – *Student Searches* – was reported unfavorable.
4. HB 1128 – *Workmen’s Compensation* – was passed by the House and will now go to the Senate.
5. SB 395 and SB 396 – *Vending Machines* – has been voted down in committee.
6. The House passed a budget bill, and now it passes to the Senate.

**RESOLUTION NO. 140-03**

**Re: UPDATE ON LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O’Neill seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly support receiving funding through HB 753 - *Taxes and Revenues* – that would change the tax law on the transfer of real property by corporations, resulting in an estimated \$10 million to the county on which the county executive based his funding request to the County Council.

**Re: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

- |    | <u>Person</u>   | <u>Topic</u>                    |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Ginger Macomber | Policy on Grading and Reporting |
| 2. | Yvette Butler   | Policy on Grading and Reporting |

- 3. Kaura Siegel Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 4. Pamela Brown Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 5. Brian Stelter Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 6. Cindy Kerr Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 7. Patty Twigg Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 8. Manka Sharma Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 9. Joyce Whang Chinese Immersion Program
- 10. Samira Hussein Arab American Heritage Month
- 11. Linda Kauskay Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 12. Sharon Bourke Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 13. Winston Wilde Policy on Grading and Reporting
- 14. Leroy Warren, Jr. Policy on Grading and Reporting

RESOLUTION NO. 141-03 Re: **CONTINUATION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT – NETWORK SYSTEMS DESIGN**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

WHEREAS, Engineering services are required to design and administer the installation of the CATV and building-wide data/communications network systems for new and modernized schools; and

WHEREAS, An engineering consultant was selected in accordance with Board of Education policy for the selection of architectural and engineering services in 1997; and

WHEREAS, The engineer has agreed to continue to provide these services at the initial negotiated rates; and

WHEREAS, Staff has recommended that the current contract be extended; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education extend the contract with the firm of Brinjac Engineering, Inc., (formerly Von Otto & Bilecky, P.C.) for CATV and data/communications network engineering design services for the following amounts:

Elementary schools	\$ 7,500 per school
Middle schools	14,680 per school
High schools	18,350 per school

RESOLUTION NO. 142-03 Re: **ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENT – JOHN T. BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by

Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, It is necessary to appoint an architectural firm to provide professional and technical services during the design and construction phases for the John T. Baker Middle School addition; and

WHEREAS, Funds for architectural planning were programmed as part of the FY 2003 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, An Architect Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Education on July 14, 1998, selected Cochran, Stephenson & Donkervoet, Inc., the architect for the original school facility, to provide the necessary professional architectural and engineering services; and

WHEREAS, Staff has negotiated a fee for the architectural services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enter into a contractual agreement with the architectural firm of Cochran, Stephenson & Donkervoet, Inc., to provide professional architectural and engineering services for the John T. Baker Middle School addition for a fee of \$239,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 143-03      Re:    **ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENT – FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR VARIOUS SCHOOLS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, It is necessary to appoint architectural firms to provide professional and technical services to conduct design feasibility studies for various capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, Funds for feasibility planning have been programmed as part of the FY 2003 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, An Architect Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Education on July 14, 1998, identified the following architects as the most qualified firms to provide the necessary professional architectural and engineering services:

<u>Elementary School Project</u>	<u>Architectural Firm</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Connecticut Park Reopening	Architecture, Inc.	\$18,925
Brookview	McKissack & McKissack*	15,000
Garrett Park Addition	Gauthier, Alvarado Architects*	30,000
Fields Road Addition	Proffitt & Pryor Architects	25,000

Bells Mill Addition	Wiencek & Zavos Architects	30,000
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\*indicates minority business

and

WHEREAS, Staff has negotiated a fee for the architectural services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enter into contractual agreements with the architectural firms identified above for the amounts listed to provide professional architectural services.

RESOLUTION NO. 144-03            Re:    **GRANT OF EASEMENT AT PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) has requested a Grant of Easement at Paint Branch High School, located at 14121 Old Columbia Pike in Burtonsville, Maryland, in order to construct an interchange between Briggs Chaney and Columbia Pike (US 29); and

WHEREAS, Final design and construction of the road improvement requires a perpetual drainage easement consisting of 5,403 square feet and a revertible easement of 408 square feet; and

WHEREAS, All construction and future maintenance will be undertaken by MSHA or its contractors at no cost to the Board of Education, with MSHA assuming liability for all damages or injury and all work; and

WHEREAS, The land conveyance will benefit the surrounding community and Paint Branch High School by improving traffic flow and will not affect any land that could be used for school programming or recreational activities; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a Grant of Easement to the Maryland State Highway Administration conveying a perpetual drainage easement of 5,403 square feet and a revertible easement of 408 square feet for road improvements along Columbia Pike adjacent to Paint Branch High School; and be it further

Resolved, That a fee of \$7,150 be paid to the Montgomery County Public Schools by the Maryland State Highway Administration for the subject easement.

RESOLUTION NO. 145-03

Re: **DECLARATION OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS  
EASEMENT AT THURGOOD MARSHALL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and Montgomery County have requested a Declaration of Public Improvements Easement at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, located at 12260 McDonald Chapel Drive in Gaithersburg, Maryland, in order to improve MacDonald Chapel Drive; and

WHEREAS, Final design and construction of the road improvement requires a Declaration of Public Improvements Easement consisting of 4,324 square feet configured in a seven-foot-wide strip for the purposes of installing, maintaining, operating, rehabilitating, or removing public improvements; and

WHEREAS, All construction and future maintenance will be undertaken by WSSC or Montgomery County or their contractors at no cost to the Board of Education, with WSSC or Montgomery County assuming liability for all damages or injury and all work; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Public Improvements Easement will benefit the surrounding community and Thurgood Marshall Elementary School by increasing pedestrian safety and will not affect any land that could be used for school programming or recreational activities; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a Declaration of Public Improvements Easement to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Montgomery County creating an easement for the purposes of installing, maintaining, operating, rehabilitating, or removing public improvements consisting of 4,324 square feet along McDonald Chapel Drive in front of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School.

RESOLUTION NO. 146-03

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2003 PROVISION FOR  
FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

WHEREAS, The grants qualify for a transfer of appropriation from the Provision for Future Supported Projects pursuant to the provisions of County Council Resolution No. 14-1270, approved May 23, 2002; and

WHEREAS, The programs do not require any present or future county funds; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient appropriation is available, within the FY 2003 Provision for Future Supported Projects, to permit the transfers within state categories; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, within the FY 2003 Provision for Future Supported Projects, as specified below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills	\$ 98,743
Challenge Grant	1,200,000
After School Activities Program	<u>144,805</u>
Total	<u>\$1,443,548</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 147-03      Re:    **FY 2003 SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR PROJECT SERV**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, an FY 2003 special appropriation of \$250,000 from the United States Department of Education for the Project SERV initiative for the specific safety-related Department of Transportation two-way radio replacement project in the following category:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
9    Student Transportation	\$250,000

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution to the County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-03      Re:    **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT**



On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. Haughey seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2003:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Gregory Thornton	Community Superintendent	Deputy Superintendent

Re: **FINAL APPROVAL OF POLICY IKA, GRADING AND REPORTING**

On recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, On November 12, 2002, the Board of Education reviewed the philosophical direction and conceptual framework for revised Policy IKA; and

WHEREAS, The draft revision of Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, was tentatively adopted by the Board of Education on January 14, 2003, and sent out for public comment with the operational framework for implementation; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has received comments and the superintendent's recommendations thereto; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the pilot plan for the development, design, and implementation of a new elementary school report card provided by staff; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt draft Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*.

## **Grading and Reporting**

### A. PURPOSE

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining rigorous performance and achievement standards for all students and to providing a fair process for evaluating and reporting student progress that is understandable to students and their parents and relevant for instructional purposes.

**B. ISSUE**

Grades are an essential way to communicate student progress. As such, grading and reporting practices must include the following:

1. Meaningful feedback on student achievement to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the school system. This feedback should provide relevant information for instructional purposes.
2. Alignment with the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum.
3. Consistency within and among schools.
4. Accurate reflection of student achievement compared to grade level or course expectations outlined in the curriculum as demonstrated on assessments and teacher-designed tasks.
5. Fair representation of a student's performance on a variety of measures over time.
6. Clear and timely communication to parents and students as to the grading criteria and the components.
7. Commitment to school attendance as an essential component of a quality learning experience.
8. Summative assessments, which may include final exams, end-of-unit tests, and cumulative projects, as reflections of a student's mastery of grade-level or course material.
9. Opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of grade-level or course expectations outlined in the curriculum through a variety of methods.
10. Regular and frequent information to all students and parents about the student's progress.
11. Consistently high expectations of all students across all courses and programs.

**C. POSITION**

1. In All Schools
  - a) Teachers use MCPS curriculum framework and instructional guides

to develop mastery objectives and a variety of tasks, including assessments to determine student achievement of those objectives.

- b) Students and parents will be informed early in a course of the expectations outlined in the curriculum of each course or unit and of the basis upon which students' performance will be evaluated.
- c) Students and parents will be informed about progress throughout the grading period and teachers are encouraged to provide such information at frequent regular intervals. Progress will be reported formally at least every nine weeks.
- d) Teachers will maintain accurate and precise records that support informally and formally reported achievement.
- e) Student progress will be evaluated and reported in terms of the performance on multiple and varied assessment measures corresponding with grade level and course expectations outlined in the curriculum as designated in special education alternative curriculum.

2. Elementary School

Formal reporting will accurately reflect student achievement compared to grade-level indicators.

3. Middle School

Formal reporting, indicated by letter grade, will report student achievement on course expectations as outlined in the curriculum.

4. High Schools

- a) Formal reporting, indicated by letter grade, will report student achievement on course expectations outlined in the curriculum.
- b) Final exams afford students the opportunity to demonstrate a synthesized, integrated understanding of course material, and therefore carry significant weight in the final grade.
- c) Active participation in the teaching and learning process and the intellectual exchange that occurs in the classroom make attendance an essential component of a quality educational experience. Regular attendance and engagement are required in order to demonstrate

mastery of material and receive credit for the course.

D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

Grading and reporting practices will be fair and meaningful and support rigorous performance and achievement standards for all students. Grades will have consistent meaning throughout the school system and be based on grade level and course expectations as outlined in the curriculum.

E. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-03      Re:    **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF POLICY IKA, *GRADING AND REPORTING***

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy IKA, Grading at Reporting, at C.1.a) to read:

Teachers **will** use MCPS curriculum framework and instructional guides to develop mastery objectives and a variety of tasks, including assessments to determine student achievement of those objectives.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-03      Re:    **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF POLICY IKA, *GRADING AND REPORTING***

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy IKA, Grading at Reporting, at C.1.b) to read:

Students and parents will be informed ~~early~~ **at the beginning of a course or marking period** of the expectations outlined in the curriculum of each course or unit and of the basis upon which students' performance will be evaluated.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-03      Re:    **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF POLICY IKA, *GRADING AND REPORTING***

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was

adopted with Mr. Alnifaigy, Mr. Burnett, Ms. Cox, Dr. Haughey, Mr. Lange, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton voting in the negative (Mr. Romero was temporarily out of the room):

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy IKA, Grading at Reporting, at C.1.c) to read:

Students and parents will be informed about progress throughout the grading period and teachers are **strongly** encouraged to provide such information at frequent regular intervals. Progress will be reported formally at least every nine weeks.

Re: **STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD**

Mr. Felton opposed the amendment because it did not require teachers to provide information to students and parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 152-03      Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF POLICY IKA, *GRADING AND REPORTING***

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy IKA, Grading at Reporting, at C.2. to read:

Formal reporting will accurately reflect student achievement compared to grade level indicators **expectations as outlined in the curriculum.**

RESOLUTION NO. 153-03      Re: **FINAL APPROVAL OF POLICY IKA, *GRADING AND REPORTING***

On recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, On November 12, 2002, the Board of Education reviewed the philosophical direction and conceptual framework for revised Policy IKA; and

WHEREAS, The draft revision of Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, was tentatively adopted by the Board of Education on January 14, 2003, and sent out for public comment with the operational framework for implementation; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has received comments and the superintendent's recommendations thereto; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the pilot plan for the development, design, and implementation of a new elementary school report card provided by staff; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt draft Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*.

## **Grading and Reporting**

### **A. PURPOSE**

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining rigorous performance and achievement standards for all students and to providing a fair process for evaluating and reporting student progress that is understandable to students and their parents and relevant for instructional purposes.

### **B. ISSUE**

Grades are an essential way to communicate student progress. As such, grading and reporting practices must include the following:

1. Meaningful feedback on student achievement to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the school system. This feedback should provide relevant information for instructional purposes.
2. Alignment with the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum.
3. Consistency within and among schools.
4. Accurate reflection of student achievement compared to grade level or course expectations outlined in the curriculum as demonstrated on assessments and teacher-designed tasks.
5. Fair representation of a student's performance on a variety of measures over time.
6. Clear and timely communication to parents and students as to the grading criteria and the components.
7. Commitment to school attendance as an essential component of a quality learning experience.
8. Summative assessments, which may include final exams, end-of-unit tests, and cumulative projects, as reflections of a student's mastery of grade level

or course material.

9. Opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of grade level or course expectations outlined in the curriculum through a variety of methods.
10. Regular and frequent information to all students and parents about the student's progress.
11. Consistently high expectations of all students across all courses and programs.

### **C. POSITION**

#### 1. In All Schools

- a) Teachers will use MCPS curriculum framework and instructional guides to develop mastery objectives and a variety of tasks, including assessments to determine student achievement of those objectives.
- b) Students and parents will be informed at the beginning in a course or marking period of the expectations outlined in the curriculum of each course or unit and of the basis upon which students' performance will be evaluated.
- c) Students and parents will be informed about progress throughout the grading period and teachers are strongly encouraged to provide such information at frequent regular intervals. Progress will be reported formally at least every nine weeks.
- d) Teachers will maintain accurate and precise records that support informally and formally reported achievement.
- e) Student progress will be evaluated and reported in terms of the performance on multiple and varied assessment measures corresponding with grade level and course expectations outlined in the curriculum or as designated in special education alternative curriculum.

#### 2. Elementary School

Formal reporting will accurately reflect student achievement compared to grade-level expectations as outlined in the curriculum.

3. Middle School

Formal reporting, indicated by letter grade, will report student achievement on course expectations as outlined in the curriculum.

4. High Schools

- a) Formal reporting, indicated by letter grade, will report student achievement on course expectations outlined in the curriculum.
- b) Final exams afford students the opportunity to demonstrate a synthesized, integrated understanding of course material, and therefore carry significant weight in the final grade.
- c) Active participation in the teaching and learning process and the intellectual exchange that occurs in the classroom make attendance an essential component of a quality educational experience. Regular attendance and engagement are required in order to demonstrate mastery of material and receive credit for the course.

**D. DESIRED OUTCOMES**

Grading and reporting practices will be fair and meaningful and support rigorous performance and achievement standards for all students. Grades will have consistent meaning throughout the school system and be based on grade level and course expectations as outlined in the curriculum.

**E. REVIEW AND REPORTING**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Re: **DISCUSSION OF THE OPERATIONAL  
FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY  
ISSUES IN POLICY IKA, GRADING AND  
REPORTING**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Mr. Dale Fulton, associate superintendent for curriculum and instructional programs; Ms. Betsy Brown, program supervisor, K-12 English/Language Arts; Dr. Barbara Haughey, principal of Ashburton Elementary School; and Ms. Lori-Christina Webb, coordinator, Policy and Procedures.

Mrs. O'Neill stated that the regulatory language was recommended, and it had been brought to the Board in order for it to provide guidance to the superintendent.



Ms. Cox asked if the language on **interims** should read:

Information provided in the interim report ~~should~~ **must** include: grade, reason for grade, suggested strategies to improve grade, contact information.

Mr. Felton was concerned about the use of interims in a school system geared toward excellence, and interims would not be sent to all students because of the workload on staff. Dr. Weast stated that if interims were systematized, the Board would have to give staff time to complete that task.

Mr. Felton asked if, in a cluster or school with the potential to perform at a higher level, students receiving "Bs" could earn "As" if parents were notified of their children's performance in an interim. How would that be done? Dr. Weast explained that the system had to balance the paperwork in the Teaching and Learning Act. Also, students and parents need to know about student performance early in the marking period. There are people in the system who do not use the standard system but give more feedback to students and parents on a more regular basis. Eventually, technology will provide real-time access to grade material.

Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that her daughter has a teacher who e-mails grades every Saturday, and all teachers are strongly encouraged to provide feedback to students and parents.

Mr. Burnett was concerned that parents would not be notified unless their child's performance dropped by two or more grades. For some parents, this is too much of a drop before being notified.

\*\*Mr. Alnifaidy left the meeting at this point.

RESOLUTION NO. 154-03

Re: **SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR POLICY IKA-RA,  
GRADING AND REPORTING**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to include the following language in IKA-RA, *Grading and Reporting*:

Information provided in the interim report must include: grade, reason for grade, suggested strategies to improve grade, contact information.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Burnett and Mr. Felton suggested that language should read:

This form may be sent for all students but must be sent to parents of each student who is in danger of failing or of dropping ~~more than~~ one letter grade during the nine weeks.

Dr. Weast thought staff should review the implications of the regulations. The Policy Committee and the Board will get a final copy of the regulatory language. Mrs. O'Neill suggested that the superintendent bring recommendations to the Board through the Policy Committee with input from all Board members.

Mrs. O'Neill suggested that the Board discuss and make decisions on regulatory intent by the Board on the weight of final exams, loss of credit and high school credit for certain middle school courses.

Staff explained that the recommendation for the **weight of the final exam** is that examinations will be computed at 25 percent of the final grade, except for validated county-wide exams in courses assessed by the Maryland High School Assessments which will be computed at 30 percent.

Ms. Cox asked for an explanation of "validated." Ms. Brown explained that there are two ways to validate an exam: (1) assure content that is aligned with the curriculum, and (2) predictive ability criteria. Mr. Fulton added that Achieve, Inc. conducted a reliability study.

Mrs. O'Neill remarked that the state has not established the cut score on the Maryland High School Assessments that will be required for graduation. One of the issues is that some students do not take the end-of-course test, and that is addressed by designating an "E" for the test on their report card. Throughout the development of the policy, Mrs. O'Neill was concerned about increasing the weight of the final exam. She was willing to increase the weight for only those courses included in the state's High School Assessments.

Re: **SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR POLICY IKA-RA,  
GRADING AND REPORTING**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to include the following language in IKA-RA, *Grading and Reporting*:

The weight of the final exam will remain at 25 percent, and the grades should be monitored and reviewed after one year for alignment with the state's High School Assessments' passed score.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Felton was willing to support 30 percent if there was more flexibility and an incentive for students' attendance. However, after the discussion, he would support 25 percent for the weight of final exams.

Mr. Burnett would support 25 percent for the weight of final exams until there was correlation and validation of the statewide test.

Ms. Cox asked why the recommendation was to increase the weight from 25 to 30 percent. Ms. Brown explained that MCPS exams are highly rigorous, and students should be prepared as they encounter high stakes' assessments throughout their educational careers.

Mr. Lange thought the richness of the test was intrinsic to the exam. He believed that test-taking skills were essential since many students admit that they are not good test takers.

Mr. Romero asked if students could retake the Maryland High School Assessments. Mr. Fulton responded that the tests can be repeated until a student passes, but he thought there could be a higher passing rate for first-time exam takers. Mr. Romero thought two years of data would be more instructive and a basis on which to make a decision. Dr. Haughey wanted a change that was beneficial, and he wanted two years of data.

Ms. Cox remarked that the most persuasive argument for raising the percentage was to help the school system help all students by correlating what was taught and what was learned. Would the 30 percent weight for the final exam result in a tighter alignment? Mr. Fulton thought it would, and the school system would get more data from more students.

Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that students do not have an opportunity to review the exams to ascertain areas in which they need improvement. Students should have a chance to learn from their mistakes.

RESOLUTION NO. 155-03      Re:    **SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR POLICY IKA-RA,  
GRADING AND REPORTING**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Dr. Haughey, Mr. Lange, Mrs. O'Neill, and Mr. Romero voting in the affirmative; Ms. Cox voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to include the following language in IKA-RA, *Grading and Reporting*:

The weight of the final exam will remain at 25 percent, and the grades will be monitored for two years to ascertain an alignment with the state's High School Assessments and reviewed to see correlation between what is taught and what is learned.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Dr. Weast suggested that the Policy and Research and Evaluation subcommittees work on the weight of final exams after the monitoring period.

RESOLUTION NO. 156-03      Re: **SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR POLICY IKA-RA,  
GRADING AND REPORTING**

On motion of Dr. Haughey and seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Burnett, Ms. Cox, Dr. Haughey, Mr. Lange, Mrs. O'Neill, and Mr. Romero voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to include the following language in IKA-RA, *Grading and Reporting*:

The loss-of-credit practice will be retained until a workgroup has been charged to make recommendations for a new attendance policy and revision to the regulation.

RESOLUTION NO. 157-03      Re: **SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR POLICY IKA-RA,  
GRADING AND REPORTING**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to include the following language in IKA-RA, *Grading and Reporting*:

Middle school students taking high school level courses shall receive high school credit and grades upon passage of the course and final exam, as required by COMAR, and those grades will automatically appear on the student's transcript.

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Weast reported that a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 26 at 7:00 p.m. will mark the opening of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's Cyber Café. This new learning environment extends the availability of technology to all students and was made possible through school and community collaboration.

Dr. Weast was happy to report that Montgomery Blair High School senior Anatoly Preygel's research on knot theory won him third place in the nation in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search competition. In a March 11 awards ceremony for the 62nd annual Intel Science Talent Search, Anatoly was awarded a \$50,000 college scholarship.

Dr. Weast stated that a reception at the Indian Spring Country Club on April 3 will raise money to provide college scholarships to young students affected by the sniper.

Mr. Burnett had visited a number of schools, including the Saturday schools and the Chinese School at James Hubert Blake High School.

Mr. Felton reminded the Board of the NAACP Youth Summit on crisis and emergency preparedness on March 29.

Ms. Cox commented that she and other Board members attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education breakfast. Also, her meeting with student leadership (MCR/MCJC) included a discussion of policy issues.

Mr. Lange thanked Mr. Bowers for his leadership in the development of the MCPS Master Plan, and there will be a forum on April 2.

Mr. Romero reported that he and Ms. Cox visited the Hispanic community at Albert Einstein High School to review the grading and reporting policy.

Mrs. O'Neill reported that she would attend the rededication of Wood Acres Elementary School. Also, she asked staff about the guidelines for field trips and cancellation of those trips during emergencies. How many days can children be away from school? Is there trip insurance? Mr. Bowers replied that parents are supplied with information about each trip and the possibility of cancellation and reimbursement of funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 158-03            Re:    **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Felton, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct closed sessions on Thursday, April 10, 2003, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*, consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; and to discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meetings shall continue in closed session until the completion of

business.

**Re: REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On March 11, 2003, by unanimous vote of members present, the Board of Education voted to conduct closed sessions as permitted under the *Education Article § 4-107* and *State Government Article § 10-501, et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed sessions on March 11, 2003, from 9:10 to 10:00 a.m. and 1:55 to 2:40 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Reviewed and/or adjudicated the following appeals: 2003-6, 2003-7, and 2003-11.
2. Reviewed the Superintendent's recommendation for the Human Resources Monthly Report, subsequent to which the vote to approve was taken in open session.
3. Consulted with counsel to receive legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*.
4. Discussed matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed session were: Mihyar Alnifaidy, Larry Bowers, Judy Bresler, Kermit Burnett, Sharon Cox, Reggie Felton, Charles Haughey, Dick Hawes, Roland Ikheloa, Don Kress, Frieda Lacey, Walter Lange, George Margolies, Mary Lee Phelps, Brian Porter, Lori Rogovin, Gabe Romero, Glenda Rose, Roger Titus, Jerry Weast, and James Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 159-03

**Re: APPEAL 2003-11**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Felton, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt its Decision and Order in Appeal 2003-11, student expulsion, reflective of the following vote: Mr. Alnifaidy, Mr. Burnett, Ms. Cox, Mr. Felton, Dr. Haughey, Mr. Lange, and Mr. Romero voting to affirm; Mrs. O'Neill was absent when the appeal was adjudicated.

**Re: NATIONAL TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY**

On motion of Mr. Lange and seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution failed with Dr. Haughey, Mr. Lange, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Burnett, Mrs. Cox, Mr. Felton, and Mr. Romero voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education go on record to discourage parents from participating in the National Take Your Child to Work Day due to the loss of instructional days this year.

**Re: NEW BUSINESS**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Lange the following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, On March 11, 1997, the Board of Education adopted a revised process and charter for the budget review committees; and

WHEREAS, These committees have provided the Board and the superintendent with input from the community about operating budget issues; and

WHEREAS, The budget review committees and other stakeholders have provided recommendations for improvements to the budget review process; and

WHEREAS, The Board desires that there is alignment between the state-mandated involvement of the community in the strategic master plan, *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*, and the operating budget process; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board direct the superintendent to extend the tenure of the Blue Ribbon Committee to permit it to review operating budget issues, including the operating budget process, enhanced community input, and performance measures and outcomes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board's Research and Evaluation Committee review past operating budget review practices and future strategic planning needs and make recommendations to the Board on aligning community involvement in the Board's strategic plan with the operating budget process.

**Re: REVISIONS TO BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE CHARTER (March 11, 1997)**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Budget Review Committees process has been in effect for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, The process has been effective in providing the superintendent and the Board of Education with input from the community about operating budget issues; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Review Committees have provided recommendations for improvements to the budget review process; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent provided members of the Board of Education with proposed changes to the Budget Review Committee Charter on January 21, 1997; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the revised Budget Review Committee Charter.

#### CHARTER FOR BOARD BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEES

ARTICLE I. MISSION. The Montgomery County Board of Education (the Board) hereby establishes a budget review committee – comprised of parents, students, representatives of businesses and community organizations, and staff – to review and analyze in-depth the current year's operating budget so as to reach informed judgments that will serve as the premise to recommendations to be made to the Board and superintendent as to the following year's operating budget request.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE. The budget review committee will fulfill its charge, in part, through the work of subcommittees. The number of budget review subcommittees shall be recommended by the committee and determined by the superintendent, in consultation with the Board. Each year, the committee shall be given by the superintendent a specific target for reduction.

ARTICLE III. CHARGE. The budget review committee shall identify issues and make recommendations, of both a general and specific nature, on matters that impact on the budget and expenditures. In pursuit of this task, the committee shall identify regulatory or policy restraints that impede achieving maximum efficiencies and economies, while mindful of extant laws and negotiated agreements, and shall also identify comparative data and measurements from other school districts pertinent to budget issues before the Board. To accomplish this, the committee shall be charged with:

- identifying critical services and programs that should continue to be funded, either at the same or expanded level
- identifying duplication of effort or services



- identifying programs or services that should be eliminated or reduced
- identifying efficiencies and economies that can be achieved in programs or services
- identifying programs and services that merit being addressed through an inter-agency approach, across agency budgets
- identifying areas for cost containment and cost shifting (e.g., to employees, parents, users)
- identifying potential areas for generating revenue (e.g., enterprise funds and fees) within the limit of the law

ARTICLE IV. BOARD AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding the foregoing charge, the ultimate responsibility, pursuant to Section 5-101 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, rests with the Board of Education, upon advice of the superintendent, to prepare an annual budget according to categories established in law. Moreover, the Board of Education is vested with the authority to determine areas of critical need that remain underfunded absent additional appropriations. Nothing in this charter shall be read to diminish in any way the statutory and policy-making authority of the Board of Education.

The committee is advisory in nature only.

ARTICLE V. ACCESS TO INFORMATION. The committee shall have reasonable access to and be provided, upon request of the superintendent's designee, existing documents, studies, reports, and published data pertinent to the issues under consideration. However, undue staff time and resources should not be utilized to create or re-format data. In this regard, the superintendent shall designate a staff liaison for the committee, who shall serve as a conduit for such requests and who shall orient committee members and guide the work of the committee.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP. The membership of the committee shall be comprised of individuals whose names shall be solicited – from students, parents, community organizations, and businesses – by the superintendent no later than early May of each year. The term of those appointed by the superintendent shall be for two years for adults and one year for students; provided, however that one who has served previously is eligible to serve again and that initial appointments shall be staggered, with both one- and two-year appointments, to ensure continuity. The committee shall select its chair (or co-chairs) from among its members. Subcommittee members shall be appointed by the committee chair, in consultation with the superintendent or designee. Subcommittee membership shall include committee members and other individuals who the committee chair feels may contribute experience, expertise, or a balancing point of view.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS. Meetings of the committee shall be upon call of the chair or a majority of its members. Although, by agreement of the committee and

subcommittees, meetings may be held during the summer months, during this time MCPS staff supporting the committee and subcommittees shall gather the documents, data, and information needed and requested, with a timeline for completing any staff analyses to be guided by the chair, in consultation with committee members.

ARTICLE VIII. INTERIM REPORT. The committee shall develop tentative recommendations to be incorporated into an interim report to be issued annually no later than September 15. The committee shall meet once tentative recommendations have been reached in subcommittees to come to consensus on their recommendations in an effort to avoid overlap, duplication, and inconsistency; provided, however, that the committee shall not be precluded from making a final recommendation that, in some manner, conflicts with a second recommendation emanating from another subcommittee.

ARTICLE IX. ANNUAL REPORT. The committee shall issue an annual report – comprising recommendations, findings, and analyses – no later than October 15, to be published and disseminated widely by the superintendent to the community-at-large.

ARTICLE X. MEETING WITH THE BOARD. The committee shall be invited to appear before the Board on an evening set aside for this purpose no later than January (separate and apart from the formal operating budget hearings), to present its recommendations and to engage in a dialogue with Board members.

RESOLUTION NO. 160-03            Re:    **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of March 24, 2003, at 11:55 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY

JDW:gr

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SUMMARY SHEET**

**March 24, 2003**

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