

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY  
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MEETING**

**EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY ACT DESCRIPTION**

*The following is a full and accurate description of the final actions taken at the meeting and is provided in accordance with the Education Transparency Act, Md. Ed. Code Ann., §3-2B-09(b)(3). If there is a discrepancy between the video and this description, the video, which constitutes the official minutes of the meeting, shall control. The video/audio recordings of the Board of Education are the official record of the meetings and can be viewed at:*  
<<https://vimeo.com/460995363>>

The September 21, 2020, meeting of the Policy Review Committee of the Board of Education of Baltimore County was held online through Livestream on the BCPS Web site and was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Kathleen Causey. A quorum was present. Those attending were: Kathleen Causey, Chair; John Offerman, Vice Chair; Joshua Muhumuza, Lily Rowe and MaKeda Scott, members.<sup>1</sup>

The following Committee staff persons were present: Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., General Counsel; and Patricia Clark, Policy and Compliance Officer.

The following additional staff persons were present: Dr. Mary Boswell-McComas, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Renard Adams, Senior Executive Director, Curriculum Operations; and Ms. Megan Shay, Executive Director, Academics.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2020

The minutes of the June 17, 2020, meeting of the Policy Review Committee stood approved as recorded.

**II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

2. Policies Scheduled for Review 2020-2021

The Committee was presented with the list of policies scheduled for review in school year 2020-2021, pursuant to Superintendent's Rule 8314. There was no discussion.

3. PRC Meeting Schedule Dates 2020-2021

---

<sup>1</sup> Ms. Cheryl Pasteur, board member, was also present as of 5:30 p.m.

The Committee was presented with a list of meeting dates for school year 2020-2021. There was no discussion.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

4. Policy 8250, Board Member Responsibilities

On motion of Ms. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Muhumuza, that Policy 8250 be amended by adding a new section on p. 2, at 24, "Related Documents: Board Handbook." The motion carried.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman	x			
Mr. Muhumuza	x			
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott	x			

On motion of Ms. Causey, seconded by Ms. Rowe, that Policy be amended at Paragraph III(A), p. 1, line 23, to read, "Each Board member shall notify the Board chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer or his/her designee and the Board's executive assistant of non-attendance in advance of the beginning of the board meeting at the earliest possible opportunity." The motion passed.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman	x			
Mr. Muhumuza	x			
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott	x			

The Committee voted to recommend that Policy 8250 be moved forward for first reader, as amended. The motion passed.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman	x			
Mr. Muhumuza	x			
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott	x			

5. Policy 8311, Meetings

On motion of Ms. Rowe, seconded by Muhumuza, that staff recommend a revision to Policy 8311 to allow for Board members to initiate a vote to hold a special meeting. The motion passed.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman	x			
Mr. Muhumuza	x			
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott			x	

On motion of Ms. Rowe, seconded by Ms. Causey, that Policy 8311 be revised to require Board members minimally use their video when speaking or voting. The motion failed.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman		x		
Mr. Muhumuza			x	
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott		x		

Mr. Muhumuza left the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and re-entered the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Ms. Pasteur entered the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

On motion of Ms. Rowe, seconded by Ms. Causey, that Policy 8311 be revised to require that virtual attendance needs to be in a secure location without other people in the room during closed and administrative sessions. The motion passed.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman	x			
Mr. Muhumuza		x		
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott		x		

On motion of Ms. Causey, seconded by Ms. Rowe, that staff review Policy 8311 for any additional language to bring in the next revision related to Board members being in a secure

location for closed and administrative sessions. The Committee took no action on this motion.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey				
Mr. Offerman				
Mr. Muhumuza				
Ms. Rowe				
Ms. Scott				

On motion of Ms. Causey, seconded by Ms. Rowe, that staff have the opportunity to review Policy 8311, as amended and per discussion, and to bring the policy back at the next Policy Review Committee meeting. The motion passed.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained/ Did Not Vote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Causey	x			
Mr. Offerman	x			
Mr. Muhumuza	x			
Ms. Rowe	x			
Ms. Scott	x			

The agenda was amended to allow discussion of Policy 5210 to proceed.

6. Policy 5210, Grading and Reporting

The committee discussed whether the policy should stand, if it needs amendment and how procedures align with the policy.

Mr. Offerman stated his belief that high school course work require specific attendance expectations and that grades should be impacted by school and class attendance, with a significant plan in place for unusual circumstances.

Ms. Pasteur spoke to holding attendance as an integral part of our expectations in order to prepare students for college and careers. Questioned how we measure course expectations and content, if students are not in attendance. Ms. Pasteur also spoke to the equity lens being used to ensure the students are getting the type of work they need for who they are and where they want to go.

Dr. Adams suggested that Dr. McComas, Ms. Shay and he bring back to the Committee an overview of how procedures became what they are, what those rationale were, and how

those procedures are being implemented. Ms. Causey stated the what he suggested would be helpful for a future meeting.

Ms. Rowe questioned whether a student's attendance is required for graduation. Dr. Adams advised he would research and get back to Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Rowe left the meeting at 6:17 p.m. and reentered the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Ms. Causey spoke to a consistent and fair process interest in the current procedures concerning a low score of 50 assigned for a student who attempted but did not make progress in a class and in grading homework.

Ms. Scott questioned whether attendance is tied to a student's grade and achievement. Dr. Adams responded that there is no connection between attendance and a student grade.

Ms. Causey asked that staff in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction provide a presentation concerning Policy 5210 at a future PRC meeting and asked that Committee members submit questions and comments or points to be considered to direct the discussion.

Hearing no objections, all items not covered during the meeting will be moved to the next Policy Review Committee meeting.

**IV. COMMITTEE GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ms. Causey asked that Board members e-mail any concerns or comments to be included in a future meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.