

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Apr 15, 2021

MINUTES

A Policy Committee meeting was held on April 15, 2021 via Zoom virtual meeting platform.

The meeting was convened at 3:57 pm

Co-Chair Dr. McColgan called the roll and made announcements concerning recording, copyright, participation in, and viewing of the meeting.

Board Members present: Dr. Maria McColgan (Co-Chair), Joyce Wilkerson (Co-Chair), Leticia Egea-Hinton, Julia Danzy, Mallory Fix-Lopez, Angela McIver, Reginald Streater, Cecelia Thompson

Non-Voting Student Board Representatives Present: Keylisha Diaz

District Liaisons Present: Alicia Prince

Dr. McColgan invited **Keylisha Diaz**, nonvoting student board representative to share remarks on Policy [206 - Assignment within the District](#). **Ms. Diaz** provided remarks urging the district to reconsider the use of standardized tests in the school selection process. Moreover, **Ms. Diaz** made a request that the Board of Education consider making a change to their speakers policy to allow an increased number of student speakers as well as extending the time limit to 3 minutes. **Dr. McColgan** responded to the request made by **Ms. Diaz**, citing that the Board is currently in pending litigation in regards to the speaker's policy, and invited **Lynn Rauch, Chief General Counsel** to provide a response to the request. Mrs. Rauch noted that the Office of General Counsel would consider the request in the context of the pending litigation and provide the Board with a response.

The minutes of the **February 11, 2021** meeting of the Policy Committee were considered for approval by Committee members. A voice vote approved the minutes of the meeting by a vote of:

Yes: 8 and No: 0.

Dr. McColgan stated that the minutes have been approved and are posted to the committee's webpage.

Dr. McColgan announced the following seven (7) policies that will be reviewed by the committee at the meeting:

- [105 Curriculum Development](#)
- [206 Assignment within the District](#)

- [614 Payroll Authorization](#)
- [616 Payments](#)
- [704 Maintenance](#)
- [705 Workplace and Construction Project Safety](#)
- [708 Environmental Management \(NEW\)](#)
- [800 Records Management \(NEW\)](#)
- [909 Municipal Government Relations \(elimination\)](#)

Dr. McColgan invited **Christina Grant**, Chief of Charter Schools to provide an update on changes made to the [administrative procedures of Policy 401 - Charter School Authorizing Functions](#). **Ms. Grant** provided an overview of the changes to the charter schools office to have renewal recommendations as a part of the renewal process. During her presentation **Ms. Grant** noted that the changes in the administrative procedures would allow the Charter Schools Office to take into account the impact of COVID-19 on data accessibility in the renewal process. **Board members** asked questions to understand how the proposed changes to the administrative procedures of [Policy 401- Charter School Authorizing Functions](#), would impact renewal cohort groups beyond the 2021-2022 school year. Likewise, **Board Members** asked **Ms. Grant** to clarify what exactly the Charter Schools Office would be auditing given the absence of data, and to share information on how the Charter Schools Office has worked to understand approaches to challenges that charter school authorizers are facing across the country.

Dr. McColgan invited **Alicia Prince**, Chief of Staff to provide brief remarks and updates on the proposed changes made to the policies listed on the agenda.

Ms. Prince highlighted policies [105 Curriculum Development](#) , [206 Assignment within the District](#) , [614 Payroll Authorization](#), [616 Payments](#). **Board members** asked clarifying questions to understand how the District is working to ensure that curriculum is culturally and linguistically relevant, the role that the equity coalition has assumed in ensuring the implementation of this policy is carried out appropriately, and the process by which students can provide feedback on the curriculum with respect to policy 105 - Curriculum Development.

Ms. Prince invited **Karyn Lynch, Chief of Student Support Services**, to participate in the discussion regarding policy [206 - Assignment within the District](#). **Board members** asked questions related to policy [206 - Assignment within the District](#) to understand the District's approach to managing unintended consequences of allowing out of catchment enrollment in K-8 schools, how the waitlist process functions, the impact of sibling preference, how the LeGare process is applied, and how the District is working to increase equity around admissions criteria for special admission schools. Additionally, **Board Members** questioned the numbering of policy [614 Payroll Authorization](#) and asked if this policy may be moved to the 300 series within the Board's policy manual.

Ms. Prince highlighted policies [704 Maintenance](#), [705 Workplace and Construction Project Safety](#), [708 Environmental Management \(NEW\)](#). **Ms. Prince** invited **Reggie McNeal, Chief Operating Officer**, to provide a brief presentation on Policy 708. Board Members asked questions with respect to policy [704 - Maintenance](#) to understand how the new processes and procedures would ensure that the construction projections that uncover unsafe conditions in a school would be addressed before resulting in students being exposed to unsafe conditions. **Board members** also asked questions to understand how building walkthroughs are coordinated, the timeframe in which a building repair should be addressed, and if there is a policy to address school level maintenance. Additionally, **Board members** asked questions regarding the 700 series of the policy manual to understand the clarity of authority and minimum walk throughs that are required, frequency that should be included, minimum of evaluations, and feedback loops to understand the bigger picture as the Board continues to engage in discussions around the change order process.

Ms. Prince highlighted policies [800 Records Management \(NEW\)](#) and [909 Municipal Government Relations \(elimination\)](#). **Board members** asked questions regarding the commitment to transparency and having records available for members of the community as it relates to policy [800 Records Management \(NEW\)](#). Additionally, Board members asked questions to gain a great understanding of what information is governed through policy [800 Records Management](#) and the information publicly accessible and available on the District's webpage. **Ms Prince** invited **Audrey Buglione**, Deputy General Counsel, Compliance & Ethics to respond to Board member's questions regarding policy [801- Public Records](#). **Board members** also asked questions about the Right to Know process and accessibility to information via the District's webpage.

Dr. McColgan facilitated the public participation portion of the meeting.

Lisa Haver, community stakeholder, expressed concerns regarding the Board's management of charter schools given the proposed changes to the administrative procedures to [Policy 401 - Charter School Authorizing Functions](#) presented by Ms. Grant.

Barbara Dowdall, community stakeholder, urged the Board to consider reinstituting libraries with licensed librarians in all schools across the district.

Lynda Rubin, community stakeholder, expressed concerns with the Board's charter school related policies 400 series, financial allocations for charter schools and traditional public schools, and equity across sectors.

Paige Joki, Education Law Center stakeholder, expressed concerns with proposed changes to the administrative procedures [policy 401 - Charter School Authorizing Functions](#) and encouraged the Charter Schools Office to review its framework to ensure that school level policies are being reviewed for discriminatory practices within the Charter School Office evaluations.

Diane Payne, community stakeholder, asked the Board to commit to a public charter school renewal process and greater transparency in action items related to charter school matters.

Cheri Michaeu, community stakeholder, expressed concerns regarding the implementation of Policy 105- Curriculum Development at the school level.

Dana Carter, community stakeholder, expressed concerns around the demographics and requirements in place for African American History teachers throughout the district.

Robin Lowry, district staff, expressed concerns around the proposed changes to the administrative procedures of [Policy 401 - Charter School Authorizing Functions](#).

Illel Poses, community stakeholder, district staff, expressed concerns around the proposed changes to the administrative procedures of [Policy 401 - Charter School Authorizing Functions](#) and its impact on the strength of the Board's oversight.

The committee made a final recommendation that all policies be sent to the full Board for review at the June 24, 2021 Action Meeting

Co-Chair Dr. McColgan invited **Ms. Prince** to share any last remarks.

Co-Chair Dr. McColgan asked **Ms. Prince** to share the list of proposed draft policies expected to be discussed at the policy committee meeting in November.

Co-Chair Dr. McColgan thanked all who attended and announced that the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm