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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dale Ellis

DATE: April 4, 2011

SUBJ: AGENDA ITEM (Section IV – Board Member Staff Development) Action Item

I have enclosed a copy of Montgomery County Schools Board of Education Policy Code #2123-Board Member Opportunities for Development for your review. To my understanding, the Board has set previous parameters that out of state travel would not be approved as outlined in the policy during the current budget situation. It was agreed that the Board could continue with NC travel and training as outlined in the policy. The Board is currently within the budget set during the budget process last year. Since it is allocated in the local budget, any funds that are not used in these line items can be moved to fund other items.

I will be happy to answer questions as needed.

**BOARD MEMBER
OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Policy Code: **2123**

Board members are encouraged to participate in school board development activities designed for them. New board members will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to attend orientation programs for new board members sponsored by the state and national school board associations. It is the responsibility of the board to provide new board members a thorough orientation to board policies, practices and duties.

Each board member must fulfill the legal requirement to receive a minimum of 12 hours of training annually.

All board members must receive a minimum of two hours of ethics education within 12 months after initial election or appointment to office and again within 12 months after each subsequent election or appointment to office. This education must address the laws and principles that govern conflicts of interest and ethical standards for local government officials. The superintendent shall maintain records verifying that each board member has participated in the required ethics education. The ethics education required under this paragraph may be counted towards the annual 12-hour training requirement.

Unless otherwise approved by the board, such training must be provided by the following entities; the school district; the North Carolina School Boards Association; the National School Boards Association; the School of Government; or the Department of Public Instruction. If a board member wishes to receive training credit or be reimbursed for attending training offered by another entity, he/she must obtain approval from the board.

The board of education must approve out-of-state travel for board members in advance of committing to such travel.

Funds for participation will be budgeted annually and reimbursement for expenses will be made in accordance with law and applicable board policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-50, 160A-83, -84

Cross References: Code of Ethics for School Board Members (policy 2120)

Adopted: March 6, 2000

Amended: May 3, 2004

Updated: April 6, 2009 Updated: April 13, 2010