



**441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427
Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427**

PHONE: (910) 576-6511 • FAX: (910) 576-2044

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dale Ellis

DATE: June 4, 2018

SUBJ: MCS Board of Education Policy #4601 (INFORMATION ITEM)

MCSBOE Policy Code #4601 was passed in 2015 in an attempt to collect fees that were ballooning out of control and growing year by year. Historically, we had collected well for seniors but by waiting to collect, some of the accounts had grown to a very large amount. Also, due to inconsistent technology to account for fees owed across transitions to schools, thousands of dollars in fees were lost from year to year. That is no longer possible due to our PowerSchool system. While the policy has been very effective in the collection of these fees each year, it has also become one of our more controversial policies.

Each year, we deal with angry calls, media requests for information, and other negative consequences from the policy. If not for the policy, we deal with the negative consequences of fees going uncollected. I can tell you that we send out bills throughout the year and particularly heavily in the Spring of each year. But, like most things, it doesn't matter until it matters. Most parents continue to wait to the last minute and are upset when students have to sit out of events.

I would like to hold a discussion on the policy and try to generate possible improvements to the policy.

COLLECTION OF STUDENT FEES and CHARGES

Policy Code: 4601

In the event that students accumulate a balance of charges and are not eligible for a fee waiver, the expectation of the Montgomery County Schools Board of Education is that those fees be paid in a timely manner.

All cafeteria, textbook, media center and/or library, extracurricular and/or athletic supply fees, fundraiser balances, and damages to laptops or other electronic devices must be paid, in full, by the end of the current school year.

The administration is authorized to withhold students from year end events that are not educational in nature, such as awards ceremonies or promotion events.

At the conclusion of a student's senior year of high school, reasonable attempts should be made to collect all fees owed prior to graduation.

In the event that such fees cannot be properly collected, the administration is authorized to withhold the student from appropriate end of year ceremonies to include graduation exercises.

Adopted: August 3, 2015