

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Date:** February 13, 2007  
**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent  
**SUBJECT:** **PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8315**  
**INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: OPERATIONS**

**ORIGINATOR:**

**RESOURCE  
PERSON(S):**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Board of Education Policy 8315 is being revised to reflect the Board's commitment to public participation at each of its meetings. This is the third reading of Policy 8315.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Proposed Policy 8315

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

### Policy Analysis for Proposed Changes to Policy 8315

#### Meetings: Participation by the Public

#### Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 8315 contains an outmoded practice of public participation in Board of Education meetings.

As currently written, the policy does not reflect the Board's commitment to public participation at each of its meetings, nor does it include the Board's current practice of inviting public comment on its Board policies.

#### Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

The Board will not incur additional costs by amending Policy 8315.

#### Other School System Policies Reviewed

1. Allegany County Policy BDDH, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
2. Anne Arundel County Policy 202.02, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
3. Baltimore City Policy Article I, *Meetings*
4. Calvert County Policy 1110, *Board of Education Meetings*
5. Caroline county Policy XII.120.40, *Sounding Board Session*
6. Carroll County Policy BEDH *Citizen Participation at Board Meetings*
7. Cecil County Policy BDD *Procedures for the Board of Education Meetings*
8. Charles County Policies P-1131, P-1133, and Rules R-1131 *Communication with the Public: Board of Education Meetings, Public Forums, Public Hearings and Public Participation: Public Forum*
9. Dorchester County Policies 180.5 *Public Attendance*; 180.6 *Public Comment*; 180.7 *Public Presentations*
10. Frederick County Policy 102, *Meetings*
11. Garrett County Policy 103JJR, *Board Meeting Procedures*
12. Harford County Policy 22-0008-0 *Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings*
13. Howard County Policy, *Meeting Participation*
14. Kent County Policy Section B, Code BED, *Public Participation in Open Meetings of the Board*
15. Montgomery County Board of Education website, *Public Participation*
16. Prince George's County Policy 8345, *Public Participation and Board of Education Member Participation at Board of Education Meetings*
17. St. Mary's County Policy BEDH *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
18. Somerset County Policy 100-12 *Public Participation*, and Policy 100-10, *Request for Audience Discussion or Presentation of Proposal(s) to the Board of Education*
19. Talbot County Policy BDDH, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
20. Washington County Policy BDDH *Public Participation*
21. Wicomico County, *Board of Education Meetings*
22. Worcester County, *Citizens Addressing the Board*

Legal Requirements

No legal requirements exist requiring public participation at local Board of Education meetings.

Time line for Adoption

January 9, 2007 – First Reading and Presentation to the Board

January 23, 2007 – Second Reading

February 13, 2007 – Adoption by the Board of Education

INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Operations

Meetings: Participation by the Public

Citizens of the county have the expressed right and are encouraged to attend ALL PUBLIC meetings of the Board and to observe the deliberation of its members. The following PROCEDURES [rules] are adopted to preserve the orderly transaction of business of the Board and to provide proper opportunities for legitimate and objective discussion and analysis of [the] EDUCATIONAL issues WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION [presented]:

1. Any citizen who wishes to [make a presentation to the Board should submit a written request to the Superintendent of Schools stating his name, address, and the topic about which he desires to be heard. If the topic is to be listed for discussion at a scheduled meeting, the request should be received ten (10) days in advance of the meeting so that the Superintendent will have ample time to consult with the president of the board regarding the request and tentatively schedule an appearance on the agenda.] ADDRESS THE BOARD AT ONE OF ITS PUBLIC MEETINGS MUST COMPLETE THE REQUISITE SIGN-IN FORM PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF EACH MEETING, AND PROVIDE THE TOPIC HE/SHE WISHES TO DISCUSS.

[2. At the time of the meeting, the presiding officer will determine in accordance with the proceedings of the meeting and the nature of the request whether it is in the interest of the Board to hear the presentation or postpone it to a subsequent meeting or to a formal hearing. The president may limit the time for the presentation, and if there are other requests to address the Board on the same topic, the presiding officer may recognize alternately representatives of supporting and opposing viewpoints to speak in behalf of those individuals sharing like views.]

2. IT IS THE PRACTICE OF THE BOARD TO INVITE THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT EACH OF ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 4/13/72

REVISED:

ALL CAPS indicate new material.

Brackets [ ] indicate deleted material.