

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: February 27, 2007

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1240 – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: VISITS TO SCHOOLS**

ORIGINATOR: Kim X. Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent, Central Area
William Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Northeast Area
H. Scott Gehring, Assistant Superintendent, Northwest Area
Jean Satterfield, Assistant Superintendent, Southeast Area
Manuel Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent, Southwest Area

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the revisions to Policy 1240. This is the first reading this Policy.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 1240

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed Revision to Policy 1240

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy Revision

Policy 1240 has been updated to incorporate a focus on safety and security as a component of the school system's support of stakeholders' visits to schools.

Cost Analysis

There are no new costs associated with the proposed revisions.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 1240 is a part of sub series 1200, all of which deal with Community Involvement.

Legal Requirement

None.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

Baltimore City Public Schools has a policy on school visitations that encourages parents and community members to visit schools. The policy also includes a statement regarding the school system's authority to exclude persons from school premises. Other school systems, including Prince George's, Montgomery, Harford, and Howard Counties have policies dealing with community relations but none that are specific to school visits.

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

The revisions to Policy 1240 represent staff input.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement

Visits to Schools

[1. General]

The Board of Education and staff welcome visits to school BY PARENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.[facilities by members of the community and other interested persons.] The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to establish procedures which shall:

- a. Encourage visitors to [inspect facilities and observe] OBSERVE INSTRUCTION AND PARTICIPATE IN school programs
- b. Provide for A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH appropriate identification of [and hospitality for] visitors
- c. [Channel expressions of approval as well as constructive criticism to the Board of Education]

[2. Specific Purpose

The Board of Education and staff fully recognize the need for a close working relationship with parents. In order to insure adequate time for discussion of concerns, parents should schedule conferences with administrators and teachers prior to coming to the school. Every effort will be made to schedule conferences as promptly as possible.]

Policy

Adopted: 10/9/69

Revised: 6/23/77

REVISED:

Board of Education of Baltimore County