

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: January 22, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 6115 –
INSTRUCTION, COMMEMORATIONS, AND
OBSERVANCES**

ORIGINATOR: Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer

**RESOURCE
PERSON(S):** Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director, Special Programs, PreK-12

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education review and approve the proposed changes to Policy 6115. This is the first reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 6115

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed Changes to the
Policy 6115 – Instruction, Commemorations and Observances

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy

This policy was last revised in 1968. Staff members have made additions to the original statement, in accordance with the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, Section 7-103 and 7-105, and have added an amendment to allow for those staff members and students who may not wish to participate, to be excused.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

There is no fiscal impact on the school system.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Policy 6115.1 (6116), Patriotic Exercises

Legal Requirement

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Section 7-103 and 7-105, each local school system shall determine which date shall be the date for holiday observances. The public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises for any day of national significance.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

Policies from Anne Arundel, Fairfax, Frederick, Harford, and Montgomery Counties were reviewed and analyzed.

Draft of Proposed Policies and rules – (see attached)

Policy 6115 Commemorations and Observances

Other Alternatives Considered By Staff

N/A

INSTRUCTION

C[eremonies] OMMEMORATIONS and Observances

Commemoration AND OBSERVANCE of special days and events shall be arranged [to] FOR the [end] PURPOSE OF [that the effective observation of these occasions is a definite and valuable part of the school] ENRICHING THE INSTRUCTIONAL program. SCHOOLS SHALL DEVOTE A PART OF THE DAY TO APPROPRIATE EXERCISES FOR DAYS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DETERMINE WHICH DATES SHALL BE DESIGNATED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES.

ANY STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER, WHO WISHES TO BE EXCUSED FROM THE PARTICIPATION IN COMMEMORATION OF SPECIAL DAYS, SHALL BE EXCUSED.

Legal Reference: *MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE*, EDUCATION
ARTICLE § 7-103 and 7-105.
[*Ann.Code of Pub.Gen. Laws of Md.*, Art.77- Pub. Ed.§97.
Terms and holidays]

Policy
Adopted: 11/21/68
REVISED:

Board of Education of Baltimore County