

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 20, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1300 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

ORIGINATOR: J. Robert Haines, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Michael Sines, Executive Director, Physical Facilities

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approve the changes to Policy 1300. This is the third reading of this policy.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Proposed Policy 1300

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed Revision to Policy 1300
Use of School Facilities

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy Revision

This policy was last revised in 1986. Since that time schools have required additional guidance on the nature of activities that may occur on school property, including games of chance and the use of tobacco both of which are prohibited by state law.

Cost Analysis

There will be no fiscal impact on the system as a result of the proposed revisions.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Revisions will not affect any other Board policy.

Legal Requirement

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article

§7-108

§7-110

COMAR 13A.02.04, Tobacco Free Schools

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

Carroll County Public Schools, Policy KGF, *Community Use of School Facilities*

Montgomery County Public Schools, Policy KGA-RA, *Community Use of Public Schools*

Prince George's County Public Schools, Policy 1330, *Community Relations: Community Use of School Facilities*

These school systems each have similar policies or regulations.

Draft of Proposed Policy

See attached.

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

No other alternative was considered.

Timeline:

First reading – May 20, 2008

Public comment – June 10, 2008

Third reading – July 8, 2008

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Use of School Facilities

I.[1.] General

- A. The Board of Education OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) encourages the use of school facilities for community purposes when such use does not interfere with the scheduled school program. The use of buildings and grounds for cultural, civic, educational, recreational, and charitable purposes is a long-standing practice. The Board [of Education] is committed to the concept of joint utilization of facilities. This has been demonstrated by sharing facilities with the BALTIMORE COUNTY Department of Recreation and Parks and other agencies.
- B. It is the primary responsibility of the Board [of Education] to operate schools in such a manner as to provide the optimum learning environment. Any commitment to joint utilization shall not impinge on the commitment to provide educational opportunities as economically and efficiently as possible. Under no circumstances should the use of school facilities for community purposes be viewed as a mechanism for keeping a school open.

[When a school facility is no longer needed for a school system purpose, the appropriate steps shall be initiated to deed the property to the Baltimore County Government. (Also, see policy, "Disposal of Real Property," Series 3000.)]

- C. Organizations desiring to use school facilities shall request an "Application for Use of School Facilities" form from the principal of the school involved. Administrative rules and a statement of costs related to the use of buildings or grounds shall be attached to the application form. The Board [of Education] reserves the right to revoke any permit which has been issued, TO A GROUP OR AGENCY; [provided that at least two (2) weeks' notice is given to the sponsoring group] THIS INCLUDES PROGRAMS WHERE THE USE OF THE FACILITY INTERFERES WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES' PROJECTS. PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF A FACILITY AND/OR GROUNDS MAY BE IMMEDIATELY REVOKED IF AN URGENT NEED FOR USE OF A FACILITY AND/OR GROUNDS FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ARISE, OR FOR A VIOLATION OF OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES.

II.[2.] Gambling

Gambling, raffles, BINGO and all other games of chance on Board [of Education] property or in connection with school projects are prohibited.

III.[3.]Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

The use, sale, or possession of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs on Board [of Education] property or in connection with school projects is prohibited.

IV. TOBACCO

THE BOARD PROHIBITS THE SALE AND USE OF ANY FORM OF TOBACCO IN AND/OR ON SCHOOL SYSTEM OWNED OR LEASED PROPERTY AND GROUNDS AT ALL TIMES.

V.[4.] Obscene and Abusive Language

The use of obscene and/or abusive language on Board [of Education] property or in connection with school projects is prohibited.

VI.[5.] Exceptions to Use of Facilities

The Board [of Education] may refuse the use of any [school] facility AND/OR GROUNDS if [it appears,] THE OFFICE OF OPERATIONS DETERMINES that this use IS [may be] likely to provoke or add to a public DISTURBANCE [riot or breach of the peace, or create a clear and present danger to the peace and welfare of the County or the State].

Legal ReferenceS:

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article
§[#]7-108 [Use of school property for other than
school purposes - in general]
§[#]7-110 [Charges for use and liability for
Damages]

COMAR 13A.02.04

POLICY 1300

Policy

Adopted: 9/18/68

Revised: 10/26/78

Edited: 2/26/81

Revised: 1/23/86

REVISED:

Board of Education of Baltimore County