

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: August 12, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8311 –
INTERNAL BOARD OPERATIONS: MEETINGS**

PRESENTERS: Frances A. S. Harris

**RESOURCE
PERSONS:** Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esquire, General Counsel

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approve the proposed changes to Policy 8311. This is the third reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 8311

**Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 8311
Meetings**

Statement of Issues or Questions to be Addressed by the Proposed Policy

The recommended revisions to Policy 8311 will specify that public comment is welcome at business meetings.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on the School System

No fiscal impact is anticipated or contemplated by this revision.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Policy 8311 establishes the manner in which the public will participate in Board of Education meetings, and references “business meetings.”

Legal Requirements

No legal requirements exist for public comment.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Calvert County, Policy 1110, *Regarding Board of Education Meetings*
2. Frederick County, Policy 102.4, *Conduct of Meetings*
3. Howard County, Policy 1000, *Civility*
4. Prince George’s, Bylaw 9366, *Order of Business: Parliamentary Procedure*
5. Washington County, Policy BDDE, *Rules of Order for Meetings*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

Board members considered leaving the current format unchanged.

Timeline:

- First reading – June 10, 2008
- Public comment – July 8, 2008
- Third reading – August 12, 2008

INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Operations

Meetings

I. [1.] [Regular] BUSINESS Meetings

A. [Regularly scheduled] BUSINESS meetings may be held to conduct the business of the Board OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) AND TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT. [for the purpose of the review and evaluation of the school program, or the development and discussion of policy.]

II. WORK SESSIONS

A. WORK SESSIONS MAY BE HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE SCHOOL PROGRAM AND/OR THE DEVELOPMENT AND DISCUSSION OF BOARD POLICY.

III. [2.] The Board [of Education]’s meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order; [, unless state law or Board policy controls] HOWEVER, WHERE STATE LAW OR BOARD POLICY EXISTS, THE APPLICABLE STATE LAW OR BOARD POLICY WILL CONTROL.

Legal ReferenceS: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §4-107 [Meetings; officers; expenses.]
Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article §§10-501 to -512 [et seq.] (Open Meetings Act)

Policy
Adopted: 4/13/72
Revised: 7/10/07
REVISED: _____

Board of Education of Baltimore County