

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 8315 –
INTERNAL BOARD OPERATIONS: MEETINGS-PARTICIPATION
BY THE PUBLIC**

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 8315.
This is the third reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 8315

**Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 8315
Meetings: Participation by the Public**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 8315 describes the manner in which the public is invited to participate at Board of Education meetings. The policy has been amended to clarify that public comment will be solicited at business meetings of the Board and to define the term “stakeholder.”

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

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

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 8311, *Meetings*

Board of Education Policy 8312, *Meetings: Time and Places*

Board of Education Policy 8313, *Meetings: Notice*

Board of Education Policy, 8314, *Meetings: Agenda*

Board of Education Policy 8330, *Minutes*

Board of Education Policy 1220, *Citizens’ Advisory Groups*

Legal Requirements

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

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local Schools Systems

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 – Section 103.05, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
4. Calvert County Policy, 1110, *Regarding 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 103.1, *Public Meeting Procedures*
12. Harford County, Policy 22-0008-000, *Public Participation at Board Open Meetings or Public Hearings*
13. Howard County Policy 2040 *Public Participation in Meetings of the Board*
14. Kent County, Policy Section BED, *Public Participation in Open Meetings of the Board*
15. Montgomery County, Board of Education Web site, *Public Participation*
16. Prince George’s County, Policy 8345, *Public Comment 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 100-10 *Request for Audience Discussion or Presentation of Proposal(s) to the Board of Education and Policy 100-12 Public Participation*
19. Talbot County, Policy BDDH, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
20. Washington County, Policy BDDE, *Rules of Order for Meetings*
21. Wicomico County, *Board of Education Meetings*
22. Worcester County, Policy A-3, *Organization and 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: Participation by the Public

- I. Citizens of the county have the expressed right and are encouraged to attend all public meetings of the Board OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) and to observe the deliberation of its members. [The following procedures 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 educational issues within the Board’s jurisdiction:]

- II. [1.] Any citizen who wishes to address the Board at one of its BUSINESS [public] meetings must complete the requisite sign-in form prior to the opening of each meeting, and provide the AGENDA ITEM OR EDUCATIONAL topic he/she wishes to discuss.

- III. [2.] It is the practice of the Board to [invite the public to address the Board of Education] PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THEIR MEETINGS AND GROUP ACTIVITIES at each of its [regularly scheduled public] BUSINESS meetings. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY, STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ARE IDENTIFIED AS EACH OF THE BOARD’S DESIGNATED AND RECOGNIZED EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING UNITS, THE PTA COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, THE BALTIMORE COUNTY STUDENT COUNCIL, AND ADVISORY GROUPS CREATED BY THE BOARD.

Policy
Adopted: 4/13/72
Revised: 2/20/07
REVISED: _____

Board of Education of Baltimore County