DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5590 – STUDENTS’ EXPRESSIONS

ORIGINATOR: Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services

Patsy Holmes, Director, Student Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education considers the proposed changes to Policy 5590. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 5590
Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 5590
Students’ Expressions

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed
Board of Education Policy 5590 is a new policy designed to replace language found in Policy 5600 that is not current with COMAR. This new policy includes language found in COMAR.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System
No fiscal impact is anticipated by the adoption of this new policy.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies
Board of Education Policy 5600, Students’ Rights and Responsibilities.

Legal Requirements
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-308; Code of Maryland Regulations §13A.08.01.03

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems
1. Howard County Public Schools, Policy 9020-PR, Students’ Rights and Responsibilities
2. Montgomery County Public Schools, JFR-RA http://www.mcps.org/board/policies
3. Prince George’s County Public Schools, Admin. Procedures 5150
   http://www.pgcps.org/board/policies

Draft of Proposed Policy
Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff
The policy was written to align with current law.

Timeline:
   First reading – October 20, 2009
   Public comment – November 3, 2009
   Third reading/vote – December 1, 2009
STUDENTS: STUDENTS’ EXPRESSIONS

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) RECOGNIZES THAT PROVIDING GUIDELINES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONSIBLE STUDENT EXPRESSION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM. THE BOARD RECOGNIZES ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS WHICH PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR STUDENT EXPRESSION ARE CONSISTENT WITH LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, SCHOOL SYSTEM POLICIES AND RULES, RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM, AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

B. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ESTABLISH NECESSARY RULE.

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500, CONDUCT
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5510, SCHOOL DISCIPLINE
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5520, DRESS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5530, TOBACCO
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5540, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5560, SUSPENSIONS, ASSIGNMENT TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, OR EXPULSIONS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5561, SCHOOL USE OF REPORTABLE OFFENSES
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5570, STUDENT TO STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

OTHER: STUDENT HANDBOOK

POLICY BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
ADOPTED: _______________