DATE: March 22, 2011
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent
SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY 4115, PERSONNEL: RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

ORIGINATOR: Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Donald Peccia, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
George Duque, Manager, Staff Relations

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 4115.
This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 4115
POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4115  
EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed
Board of Education Policy 4115 has not been revised since 1998. Policy 4115, as written, outlines the responsibilities and duties of teachers. Staff is recommending that Policy 4115 be revised to clearly define the Board of Education’s expectations for all employees as it relates to employee conduct, responsibilities, and the belief that every employee conduct him/herself in a professional manner in the performance of their duties. The Policy has further been revised to conform to the Policy Review Committee’s editing conventions.

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

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies
1. Board of Education Policy 2372, Conduct: Tobacco
2. Board of Education Policy 4001, Drug-Free Workplace
3. Board of Education Policy 4002, Precepts, Beliefs, and Values of the Baltimore County Public Schools
4. Board of Education Policy 4003, Sexual Harassment
5. Board of Education Policy 4004, Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, and/or Inappropriate Behavior Toward a Student by an Employee of the Baltimore County Public Schools
6. Board of Education Policy 4006, Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks
7. Board of Education Policy 4008, Obligations of Employees of the Board of Education of Baltimore County
8. Board of Education Policy 4133, Tutoring
9. Board of Education Policy 4400, Absences and Leaves
10. Board of Education Policy 5440, Child Abuse and Neglect
11. Board of Education Policy 8360, Definitions
12. Board of Education Policy 8361, General
13. Board of Education Policy 8363, Conflict Of Interest
14. Board of Education Policy, 8364, Financial Disclosure
15. Board of Education Policy 8410, Fraud Reporting

Legal Requirements
1. Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §4-205, Powers and duties of county superintendent.
2. Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §6-202, Suspension or dismissal of teachers, principals and other professional personnel.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems
1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy 801.07, Duties and Responsibilities – Teachers
2. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 7030, Employee Conduct and Discipline
Draft of Proposed Policy
Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff
None

Timeline
First reading – March 22, 2011
Public comment – April 5, 2011
Third reading/vote – May 10, 2011
I. PHILOSOPHY

A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) RECOGNIZES THE CRITICAL ROLE ITS EMPLOYEES PLAY IN MAINTAINING THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE BOARD FURTHER BELIEVES THAT ALL EMPLOYEES SHOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT REFLECT THE EDUCATIONAL GOALS OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS).

B. THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE MUST MODEL ETHICAL BEHAVIOR, EXHIBIT A STRONG WORK ETHIC, WORK PRODUCTIVELY, AND PERFORM HIS/HER DUTIES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER.

[The professional tasks of teachers involve considerably more time than that devoted to actual class instruction, at all levels of teaching, kindergarten through grade 12. Some of these duties include but are not limited to: study and research to keep abreast of new knowledge and techniques; evaluation of students' work; record keeping; lesson planning and preparation; student, parent, and principal conferences; inservice training meetings; and pupil supervision outside the classroom, and other related duties.

Teachers are expected to be in their classrooms or at assigned duties prior to the beginning of their instructional day and after the close of their instructional day. This time is necessary for educational planning, preparation, and conferences with students, parents, and faculty members. Teachers whose effectiveness is impaired by a lack of lesson planning and participation in sufficient necessary activities before and after school should be dealt with as individuals. Rigid duty hours should not be imposed upon all teachers in order to discipline the few exceptions who take advantage of being treated as professional educators.]

C. ALL EMPLOYEES [staff members] are expected to maintain a standard of dress, personal appearance, and general decorum, as well as moral standards and behavior that reflect their professional status in the community.
II. IMPLEMENTATION

THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO ARTICULATE THESE EXPECTATIONS, INCLUDING PROVISION FOR TAKING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY OR OTHER ACTION WHEN THIS POLICY HAS BEEN VIOLATED.

[It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to establish necessary regulations to accomplish effectively the goals of the instructional program in the school.]

Legal ReferenceS:  [Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 6-201]

ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §4-205, POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §6-202, SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL.

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 2372, CONDUCT: TOBACCO
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4001, DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4002, PRECEPTS, BELIEFS, AND VALUES OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4003, SEXUAL HARASSMENT
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4004, SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND/OR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR TOWARD A STUDENT BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4005, DATING OR SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4006, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND NETWORKS
POLICY 4115

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4008, OBLIGATIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4133, TUTORING
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4400, ABSENCES AND LEAVES
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5440, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8360, DEFINITIONS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8361, GENERAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8363, CONFLICT OF INTEREST
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY, 8364, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8410, FRAUD REPORTING