

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: March 22, 2011

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL
SYSTEM WEB SITE TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT BY EMAIL**

ORIGINATOR: Mr. James Coleman, Chairperson, Policy Review Committee (PRC)

**RESOURCE
PERSON(S):** Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., General Counsel
Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education reviews the Policy Review Committee's recommendation, permitting the receipt of public comment via the school system's web page on the Policy Review Committee's recommendations for adoption, revision, or deletion of policies.

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION
TO THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

To further the Board of Education of Baltimore County's philosophy of encouraging public participation and input concerning Board policy, the Policy Review Committee is recommending that the public be given the opportunity to comment on policies that are currently before the Board for adoption, revision, and/or deletion. Links to policies currently available for public comment will be provided on the school system's main web page, as well as on the Policies and Rules home page. The Policy Review Committee is recommending that the Board consider this request.

I. The layout pages for this process may be found at the following links:

A. Policies Available for Public Comment

http://uat.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/openForComment.asp

1. When a policy is added to the Board's agenda, the policy will be added to the public comment page, along with the dates that the policy will also be presented to the Board for first reader (board report), second reader (public comment), and third reader (board action).
2. The policy number/title will be linked directly to the policy and policy analysis exhibit for the Board's meeting agenda.
3. The public may comment on the policies by clicking on the "comment on xxxx" button below each policy.
4. Community members will be able to comment on policies until 12:00 midnight of the public comment date. After that time, no further comments will be accepted.

B. Public Comment Form

http://uat.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/comment.asp

1. The following sections will be "required" fields: Name, address, email address. These required fields, with the exception of email address, mirror the sign up sheet for commenting on policies at the Board's public meeting. The email address is required in order to send an automated "thank you."

C. Automated Thank You

http://uat.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/thankyou.html

1. An automated thank you will be sent to the email address, noting that the comments will be shared with the Board for its consideration.

II. Comments Received

- A. All comments -- received via email and during the public comment period at the open meeting of the Board -- will be presented to the full Board during third reader in the Policy Review Committee's report.

III. Similar Comment Options Offered by Maryland LEAs

- A. Anne Arundel County
- B. Howard County
- C. Montgomery County

IV. Timeline

- A. PRC Report to Full Board: March Work Session
- B. Testing of Site: March – April
- C. Implementation: May