

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** December 6, 2011

**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8315 – PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC**

**ORIGINATOR:** Margaret-Ann Howie, Esquire, General Counsel

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Patricia Clark, Policy and Compliance Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 8315 – *Participation by the Public*. This is the third reading.

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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 provides for public comment at Board meetings by members of the public, as well as the Board's stakeholder groups. Policy 8315 has been revised, at the request of the Board, to permit public comment at all of the Board's regularly scheduled meetings.

**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**

None

**Legal Requirements**

None

**Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems**

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy BCB, *Public Participation at Board Meetings*
2. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 2040, *Public Participation in Meetings of the Board*

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

Make no changes to the policy.

**Timeline**

First reading – October 25, 2011

Public comment – November 8, 2011

Third reading/vote – December 6, 2011

INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Operations

Meetings: Participation by the Public

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Citizens of the county have the EXPRESS [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.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. A PERIOD OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SHALL BE SET ASIDE DURING REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS AT A TIME TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

B. Any citizen who wishes to address the Board at one of its [business] 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. STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

It is the practice of the Board to provide an opportunity for stakeholder groups to report the results of their meetings and group activities at each of its REGULAR BOARD [business] meetings. For the purpose of this policy, stakeholder groups are identified as those existing as of the 2008-2009 school year.

Policy  
Adopted: 04/13/72  
Revised: 02/20/07  
Revised: 10/07/08  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County