

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** March 20, 2012

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8120, PURPOSE, ROLE, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ORIGINATOR:** Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., General Counsel

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 8120.  
This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 8120

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8120  
PURPOSE, ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

In accordance with Policy and Rule 8130, Policy 8120 is scheduled for review in school year 2011-2012. Policy 8120 outlines the statutory duties of the Board of Education. Policy 8120 has been revised to: (1) include a policy statement; (2) include funding for staffing as part of the Board's budgetary authority; (3) conform with 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. None

**Legal Requirements**

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §4-101, Control and Promotion of Education*
2. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §4-108, Duties in General*

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

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy BAB, *Board Powers and Duties*
2. Frederick County Board of Education, Policy 106, *General Powers and Duties*
3. Harford County Board of Education, Policy 22-001-000, *Legal Authority and Status of the Harford County Board of Education*
4. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 2000, *School Board Governance*

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

No other alternatives were considered.

**Timeline**

First reading – March 20, 2012

Public comment – April 17, 2012

Third reading/vote – May 8, 2012

INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Organization

Purpose, Role and Responsibilities of the Board of Education

I. POLICY STATEMENT [PURPOSE]

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (BOARD) IS A SEPARATE LEGAL ENTITY CREATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND. THE BOARD HAS FULL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION OVER ALL EDUCATIONAL MATTERS AFFECTING BALTIMORE COUNTY AND SHALL PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE SCHOOLS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.
- B. THE BOARD MAY SUE AND BE SUED AND EXERCISE ALL POWERS AND PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO OR VESTED IN IT BY LAW.

II. PURPOSE

- A. THE BOARD is empowered, directed, and required to maintain a reasonably uniform system of public schools designed to provide quality education and equal educational opportunity for all CHILDREN IN BALTIMORE COUNTY. [youth and shall be in control of all educational matters affecting Baltimore County. It promotes the interests of the public schools of Baltimore County. The following are the basic responsibilities of the Board: ]
- B. SOME OF THE BOARD’S DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS INCLUDE THE DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO:
  - 1. Reflect the aspirations and desires of the citizens for an adequate educational program. [;]
  - 2. Comply with federal and state laws and regulations. [;]
  - 3. Select the Superintendent [of Schools]. [;]
  - 4. Appoint the personnel needed for developing and carrying out the educational program as recommended by the Superintendent.
  - 5. EXERCISE ITS LAWFUL BUDGETARY AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR CURRENT AND PROPOSED STAFFING GUIDELINES.

6. [5.] Review the evaluation of the educational program as determined by the Superintendent and act upon recommendations contained therein. [;]
7. [6.] Prepare and support an annual budget for the operating and capital needs of the school system. [;]

II. MISSION [Responsibilities]

A. [The Board of Education shall concern itself primarily with questions of policy rather than with administrative details. The application of policies is an administrative task to be performed by the Superintendent of Schools and the staff, who shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the entire school system.] The Board, as the governing body of the school system, fulfills its mission by adopting policies concerning:

1. The educational program, to determine the effectiveness with which the schools are achieving the educational purposes of the school system.
2. The appointment of a staff, and its professional development, to assist students in reaching appropriate goals.
3. The dissemination of information relating to the schools, necessary for creating a well-informed public.
4. The planning, expansion, improvement, financing, construction, and maintenance of the physical plant of the school system.
5. The standards needed for the efficient operation and improvement of the school system.
6. The establishment and maintenance of records, accounts, archives, management methods, and procedures incidental to the conduct of school business.
7. The budget, financial reports, audits, major expenditures, payment of obligations, and policies whereby the administration may formulate procedures, regulations, and other guides for the orderly accomplishment of business.

Legal ReferenceS: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION*  
*ARTICLE §4-101, Control and Promotion of Education*  
*Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §4-108, Duties*  
*in General*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore

County

Adopted: 04/13/72

Revised: 05/08/07

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_