DATE: December 18, 2012

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6304, COMMEMORATIONS AND OBSERVANCES

ORIGINATOR: Kevin A. Hobbs, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Lisa Grillo, Chief Human Resources Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 6304, *Commemorations and Observances*. This is the first reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 6304
POLICY ANALYSIS FOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6304
COMMEMORATIONS AND OBSERVANCES

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed
In accordance with the Board of Education Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 8130, Policy 6304 is scheduled for review in school year 2012-2013. Policy 6304 outlines standards for the commemoration and observation of special days and events. Staff is recommending that the policy be revised to: (1) include a policy statement; (2) clearly identify standards the Board requires in commemoration and observances of special days and events; (3) include an implementation section; and (4) 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 6301, School Calendar

Legal Requirements
1. Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-103, Required School Days and Holidays

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems
1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education Policy GAH, Work Days – Holidays / Special Observances
2. Harford County Board of Education Policy 04-0019-000, Ceremonies and Observances

Draft of Proposed Policy
Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff
No other alternatives were considered.

Timeline
First reading – December 18, 2012
Public comment – January 8, 2013
Third reading/vote – February 5, 2013
INSTRUCTION: SCHEDULES

Commemorations and Observances

I. POLICY STATEMENT

A. Commemoration [and observance] of special days and events shall be arranged so the observation of these occasions enriches [for the purpose of enriching] the instructional program.

II. STANDARDS

A. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW, SCHOOLS SHALL DEVOTE A PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY BY CONDUCTING APPROPRIATE EXERCISES IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY;
2. LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY;
3. VETERAN’S DAY;
4. COLUMBUS DAY;
5. ARBOR DAY; AND
6. OTHER DAYS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

B. The Superintendent shall determine which ADDITIONAL dates shall be designated for SPECIAL [holiday] observances.

[Schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises for days of national significance.]

C. STUDENTS SHALL BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP AND TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES HELD IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS.

D. Any student or staff member[,] who wishes to be excused from the participation in commemoration of special days[,] shall be excused.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

A. THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY.
Policy
Board of Education of Baltimore County
Adopted: 11/21/68
Revised: 02/26/08
REVISED: _______