

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**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 6304

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article [§]§7-103,  
*REQUIRED SCHOOL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS* [and 7-105]

RELATED POLICY: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6301, *SCHOOL  
CALENDAR*

Policy  
Adopted: 11/21/68  
Revised: 02/26/08  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County