

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: February 5, 2013

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF 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 approves the proposed changes to Policy 6304, *Commemorations and Observances*. This is the third 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