

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** March 19, 2013

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

**FROM:** S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6307, PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

**ORIGINATOR:** Kevin A. Hobbs, Deputy Superintendent

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Patricia Lawton, Chief Academic Officer  
Elizabeth Aitken, Executive Director, Liberal Arts  
Rex Shepard, Coordinator, Secondary Social Studies

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 6307. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 6307

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6307  
PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 8130, Policy 6307 is scheduled for review in school year 2012–2013. Policy 6307 outlines the Board’s expectations that the American flag be displayed in each school and office. The policy also provides for conducting patriotic exercises in schools and for the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. In February of 2013, staff recommended the deletion of the Policy. However, following additional review by the full Board and further discussion at the Committee level, the Policy Review Committee has rejected the staff recommendation and has directed staff to revise Policy 6307 to conform with its editing conventions. The Committee concurs with its other Board colleagues that patriotic exercises are important for students. No substantive changes have been recommended.

**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 5600, *Students’ Rights and Responsibilities*
2. Board of Education Policy 6304, *Commemorations and Observances*

**Legal Requirements**

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-105, Display of flag; patriotic exercises*

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

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy 610.01, *Patriotic Exercises*
2. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 9020, *Students’ Rights and Responsibilities*
- 3.

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

Staff had recommended deleting the policy, as it was simply a restatement of the law.

**Timeline**

First reading – March 19, 2013

Public comment – April 23, 2013

Third reading/vote – May 7, 2013

INSTRUCTION: SCHEDULES

Patriotic Exercises

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Provisions shall be made for the display of the flag of the United States of America on the site of each school, office, [classroom] or other installation of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (BOARD) and for the display of said flag in each classroom of every Baltimore County Public School[s].

II. STANDARDS

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to provide for appropriate patriotic exercises in the public schools. Exercises shall include the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- B. Any student or staff member, who wishes to be excused from the participation in a flag salute, shall be excused.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY.

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-105, *DISPLAY OF FLAG; PATRIOTIC EXERCISES*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Rights and Responsibilities*  
Board of Education Policy 6304, *Commemorations and Observances*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 10/31/69

Revised: 4/22/08

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