

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** July 9, 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:** S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Patricia Lawton, Chief Academic Officer  
Elizabeth Aitken, Senior Executive Director

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 6304. This is the third reading.

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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**

Policy 6304 outlines standards for the commemoration and observation of special days and events. At the request of the Policy Review Committee, the policy has been revised to: (1) Require the commemoration and observance of certain days and events as required by law and as identified by the Board; (2) Include D-Day as a required day of commemoration and observance; and (3) Arrange the days of commemoration in chronological order. The Policy Review Committee asks that the Board approve this revision.

**Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System**

According to the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, the sole cost of the policy revision would be in identifying resources to develop meaningful classroom activities.

**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 options were considered.

**Timeline**

First reading – May 21, 2013

Public comment – June 11, 2013

Third reading/vote – July 9, 2013

INSTRUCTION: Schedules

Commemorations and Observances

I. Policy Statement

[A.] THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) REQUIRES THE COMMEMORATION AND OBSERVANCE OF CERTAIN DAYS AND EVENTS WHEN REQUIRED BY LAW OR WHEN IDENTIFIED BY THE BOARD AS A DAY OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. Commemoration of special days and events shall be arranged so the observation of these occasions enriches 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. COLUMBUS DAY;
2. VETERAN'S DAY;
3. LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY;
4. WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY;
5. ARBOR DAY;
6. D-DAY; AND
7. OTHER DAYS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

- [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 observances.

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 [of Education (Board)] directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-103, Required School Days and Holidays*

Related Policy: Board of Education Policy 6301, *School Calendar*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 11/21/68

Revised: 02/26/08

Revised: 02/05/13

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