DATE: December 3, 2013

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF
EDUCATION POLICY 2361, DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL
MATeRIALS

ORIGINATOR: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 2361. This is the third reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 2361
Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 2361
Distribution of Non-School Materials

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed
In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 8130, Policy 2361 is scheduled for review in school year 2013-2014. Policy 2361 outlines the Board’s parameters for school dissemination of non-school materials. Staff is recommending that the policy be revised to: (1) include a policy statement that reflects the Board’s willingness to allow, under certain conditions, to use schools to inform students, staff, and the community of certain events; (2) include booster clubs and the BCPS Education Foundation as approved groups; (3) include a statement that approval to disseminate does not imply Board or school system endorsement of the organization or information disseminated; and (4) conform with 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 1210, Relationship with Parent-Teacher (Student) Associations
2. Board of Education Policy 1300, Use of School Facilities
3. Board of Education Policy 3160, School-Sponsored Activities
4. Board of Education Policy 8363, Conflict of Interest – Prohibited Conduct

Legal Requirements
1. None

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems
1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy KA, Distribution of Non-School Communications
2. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 10010, Distribution and Display of Materials and Announcements
3. Montgomery County Board of Education, Policy CNA, Informational Material and Announcements

Draft of Proposed Policy
Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff
No other alternatives were considered.
Timeline
First reading – October 22, 2013
Public comment – November 5, 2013
Third reading/vote – December 3, 2013
ADMINISTRATION: Administrative Operations

[General:] Distribution of Non-School Materials

I. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes the need for an appropriate means to inform students, staff, and parents about school and community activities and events that neither unduly burdens the school staff nor disrupts the learning environment. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to establish criteria for the dissemination of these materials in order to provide a learning environment that is free from disruption.

II. GUIDELINES

The distribution of materials and announcements in or from schools and offices shall be limited to materials published by entities of federal, state, and local governmental entities, nationally affiliated parent-teacher associations, booster clubs affiliated with a Baltimore County Public School (BCPS), materials from businesses with established school-sponsored business partnerships, and the BCPS Education Foundation. Approval to disseminate or display materials in one or more Baltimore County Public School does not imply Board or school system endorsement of the organization or the information it disseminates.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish procedures to implement this policy.
Legal Requirement:  

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Maryland v. Montgomery County Public Schools, 457 F.3d 376 (4th Cir. 2006)

RELATED POLICIES:  

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1210, RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENT-TEACHER (STUDENT) ASSOCIATIONS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1300, USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3160, SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8363, CONFLICT OF INTEREST – PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Policy  
Adopted: 11/16/72  
Revised: 12/08/88  
Revised: 08/16/90  
Revised: 04/21/09  
REVISED: _________