

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** December 3, 2013

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8315, PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC**

**ORIGINATOR:** Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., General Counsel

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Patricia S. Clark, Policy and Compliance Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 8315.  
This is the third reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 8315

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8315  
MEETINGS: PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

The Policy Review Committee has been asked by the Board to review Board of Education Policy 8315 and provide recommendations. Policy 8315 establishes the commitment of the Board to allow citizen and stakeholder participation in its public meetings by establishing a period for public comment during its regular meetings. The Policy Review Committee is recommending that the policy be revised to update the year referenced in the policy so that the most recent employee group, Baltimore County Organization of Professional Employees, can be recognized at its public meetings.

**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 8312, *Public Meetings*

**Legal Requirements**

1. None

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

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy BCB, *Public Participation*  
[http://www.aacps.org/aacps/boe/board/newpolicy/Sections/section\\_200/policy202.02.pdf](http://www.aacps.org/aacps/boe/board/newpolicy/Sections/section_200/policy202.02.pdf)
2. Carroll County Board of Education, Policy BEDH, *Citizen Participation at Board Meetings*  
[http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/ccps/Board.nsf/legacy-content/84Q42C3BECC2/\\$FILE/BEDH.Citizen%20Participation%20.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/ccps/Board.nsf/legacy-content/84Q42C3BECC2/$FILE/BEDH.Citizen%20Participation%20.pdf)
3. Harford County Board of Education, Policy 22-0008-000, *Public Participation at Board Open Meetings of Public Hearings*  
[http://www.hcps.org/BOE/PoliciesProcedures/docs/School\\_System\\_Governance/0008-000%20Public%20Participation%20at%20Board%20Open%20Meetings%20or%20Public%20Hearings.pdf](http://www.hcps.org/BOE/PoliciesProcedures/docs/School_System_Governance/0008-000%20Public%20Participation%20at%20Board%20Open%20Meetings%20or%20Public%20Hearings.pdf)
4. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 2040, *Public Participation in Meetings of the Board*  
<http://www.hcpss.org/board/policies/2040.pdf>
5. Prince George's County Board of Education, Policy 8345, *Public Comment and Board of Education Member Participation at Board of Education Meetings*  
<http://www1.pgcps.org/generalcounsel/boardpolicies/bp8000.aspx>

**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

INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Operations

Meetings: Participation by the Public

I. Policy Statement

[A.] Citizens of the county have the express right and are encouraged to attend all public meetings of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) and to observe the deliberation of its members.

II. Public Comment

A. A period of public participation shall be set aside during regular Board meetings at a time to be determined by the Board.

B. Any citizen who wishes to address the Board at one of its meetings must complete the requisite sign-in form prior to the opening of each meeting, and provide the agenda item or educational topic he/she wishes to discuss.

III. Stakeholder Groups

A. It is the practice of the Board to provide an opportunity for stakeholder groups to report the results of their meetings and group activities at each of its regular Board meetings.

B. For the purpose of this policy, stakeholder groups are THOSE identified BY THE BOARD AND [as those] existing as of the 2013-2014 [2008-2009] school year.

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 04/13/72

Revised: 02/20/07

Revised: 10/07/08

Revised: 12/06/11

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