

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: March 10, 2009

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5320 – STUDENTS: ACTIVITIES**

ORIGINATOR: Patricia Abernethy, Chief Academic Officer

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 5320. This is the third reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 5320

**Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 5320
Organizations**

Statement of Issues Addressed By the Policy

Board of Education Policy 5320 was last revised in 1997. The revised policy was presented at the February 2008 Board meeting. A recommendation was made that the policy be reviewed to ensure it meets the law. The Law Office has made no recommended changes.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Relationship to Other Board Policies

Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Rights and Responsibilities*

Legal Requirement

20 U.S.C. §4071

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-108

COMAR 13A.08.01.09

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

1. Howard County, Policy 9020, *Students' Rights and Responsibilities*
2. Montgomery County, Policy JFA-RA, *Students' Rights and Responsibilities*
3. Anne Arundel County, Policy 902.12, *Student Organizations*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered By Staff

No other alternatives were considered

Timeline:

First reading: January 27, 2009

Public comment: February 10, 2009

Third reading: March 10, 2009

STUDENTS: Activities

Organizations

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLUBS

- A. The Board of Education of BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) endorses establishing clubs and other approved school organizations for the purpose of reaching the interests of as many students as possible.
- B. Student clubs or organizations which are approved by the administration of the school and which are sponsored and supervised by faculty members are encouraged by the Board [of Education] provided that the membership of the organization is open to the free choice of any students who qualify to fill the aims of the organization.

[Organizations as defined below shall be prohibited from conducting activities in public school buildings or on public school grounds:

- 1. Any secret, exclusive, self-perpetuating social organization, composed in whole or part of public school students.
- 2. Any organization which seeks to organize or perpetuate itself by taking in members from the student population of public schools on the basis of member decisions rather than free choice of the students who are qualified to fill the special aims of the organization.
- 3. Any organization of youths under the age of twenty-one (21) which lacks sponsorship and direct supervision by a recognized and established adult community organization.
- 4. Any non-school-sponsored student-initiated clubs or organizations directed, conducted, or controlled by others or whose activities materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school.]

II. EQUAL ACCESS ACT

THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT REQUIRES THAT THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) LIMITED OPEN FORUM GRANT EQUAL ACCESS TO STUDENT GROUPS WHO WISH TO MEET FOR RELIGIOUS,

POLITICAL, OR PHILOSOPHICAL PURPOSES, IF THE SCHOOL ALLOWS OTHER TYPES OF NON-CURRICULUM RELATED STUDENT GROUPS TO MEET.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. [Section] §4071 (Equal Access Act)
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-108
COMAR 13A.08.01.09 [Student Organizations]

Policy
Adopted: 11/21/68
Revised: 11/20/69
Revised: 7/12/84
Revised: 5/28/97
REVISED: _____

Board of Education of Baltimore County