

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: February 7, 2012

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL LEGISLATION**

ORIGINATOR: Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Robert Barrett, Executive Office, Community Outreach

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education consider taking positions on Key School Legislation.

* * * * *

Summary
Senate Bill – 407
House Bill 481

An Act concerning Baltimore County – Elected School Board

Introduced: February 1, 2012

Sponsors: Senators Zirkin and Jennings

Sponsors: Delegates Lafferty, Kach, Aumann, Boteler, DeBoy, Frank, Impallaria, McDonough, and Morhaim

This Bill's provisions include:

- Creates an elected Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) that would consist of 9 members (total) and one student member from the county at large. One member should be elected from each of the nine school Board districts in the county by the voters of that district.
- The current Board structure would be retained until the first Monday in December 2014, following the general election to be held in November 2014.
- A requirement that an elected Board member must be a registered voter and a resident of Baltimore County (must maintain residency to remain in office).
- If no candidate files for election from a district or is qualified to be placed on an election ballot, the County Executive shall appoint a member for that vacancy with the advice and consent of the Baltimore County Council.
- The terms of office would be for four years beginning on the first Monday in December after the member's election and until a successor is elected and qualified; initial terms of office for elected and members are not staggered.
- Language that retains the removal (by the State Board) of any Board member for any of the five factors for cause, including the failure of a member to attend at least 75% of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year (absence must be considered a good cause); upon a removal decision by the State Board, the Board member removed has a right to a *de novo* review in the Circuit Court of Baltimore County.
- Board members will select a chair and vice chair annually (at the first December meeting from among Board members).
- Board members are entitled to an annual compensation of \$3,000 as well as allowances for travel and other expenses.
- A member elect may not serve more than three consecutive terms.