

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** May 18, 2010

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

**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1300 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS: USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

**ORIGINATOR:** J. Robert Haines, Deputy Superintendent

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Michael G. Sines, Executive Director, Department of Physical Facilities

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 1300. This is the first reading of this policy.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Proposed Policy 1300

**Policy Analysis for  
Board of Education Policy 1300  
Community Relations**

Statement of Issues Addressed or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 1300, Use of School Facilities is being recommended for modification to exclude Bingo (without cash prizes) as gambling in order to allow groups to expand activities involving the community-at-large permissible under HB 1542 and SB 1029.

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

None

Legal Requirement

Bingo applicant will obtain a Bingo License as required by the Baltimore County Department of Permits and Development Management.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

Several school systems were contacted and allow Bingo (Baltimore City Public Schools, Caroline, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery County Public Schools).

Baltimore City Public Schools, *Use of School Facilities*

Caroline County Public Schools, *Regulation I.II.10, Fund Raising*

Harford County Public Schools, *Procedures for Use of Public School Facilities*

Howard County Public Schools, Policy 10020, *Use of School Facilities by Non-School Groups*

Montgomery County Public Schools, Policy KGA-RA, *Community Use of Public Schools*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

None

Timeline

First reading – May 18, 2010

Public comment – June 15, 2010

Third reading/vote – July 13

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Use of School Facilities

I. General

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) encourages the use of school facilities for community purposes when such use does not interfere with the scheduled school program. The use of buildings and grounds for cultural, civic, educational, recreational, and charitable purposes is a long-standing practice. The Board is committed to the concept of joint utilization of facilities. This has been demonstrated by sharing facilities with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks and other agencies.
- B. It is the primary responsibility of the Board to operate schools in such a manner as to provide the optimum learning environment. Any commitment to joint utilization shall not impinge on the commitment to provide educational opportunities as economically and efficiently as possible. Under no circumstances should the use of school facilities for community purposes be viewed as a mechanism for keeping a school open.
- C. Organizations desiring to use school facilities shall request an "Application for Use of School Facilities" form from the principal of the school involved. Administrative rules and a statement of costs related to the use of buildings or grounds shall be attached to the application form. The Board reserves the right to revoke any permit which has been issued, to a group or agency; this includes programs where the use of the facility interferes with the Department of Physical Facilities' projects. Permission for the use of a facility and/or grounds may be immediately revoked if an urgent need for use of a facility and/or grounds for school activities or educational purposes arise, or for a violation of operating rules and procedures.

II. Gambling

Gambling, raffles, [Bingo,] and all other games of chance on Board property or in connection with school projects are prohibited WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BINGO.

III. Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

The use, sale, or possession of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs on Board property or in connection with school projects is prohibited.

IV. Tobacco

The Board prohibits the sale and use of any form of tobacco in and/or on school system owned or leased property and grounds at all times.

V. Obscene and Abusive Language

The use of obscene and/or abusive language on Board property or in connection with school projects is prohibited.

VI. Exceptions to Use of Facilities

The Board may refuse the use of any facility and/or grounds if the Office of Operations determines that this use is likely to provoke or add to a public disturbance.

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-108  
*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-110  
COMAR 13A.02.04

Policy  
Adopted: 9/18/68  
Revised: 10/26/78  
Edited: 2/26/81  
Revised: 1/23/86  
Revised: 5/20/08  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County