

Board of Education of Baltimore County

6901 N. Charles Street

Kathleen S. Causey, Chair

Towson, Maryland 21204-3711

AMENDED RESOLUTION ON COVID-19

WHEREAS, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of the state of Maryland, issued a Declaration of State Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency – COVID-19 on March 5, 2020, regarding the outbreak of disease caused by the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance to all states and local governments, and all citizens, recommending preparedness to prevent community spread and guard against the potential of a COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) deems it essential to prepare for the possibility that, due to medical or health emergencies related to COVID-19, individual Board members may not be able to attend Board meetings or Board committee meetings, or the possibility that it may be necessary for the entire Board or a Board committee to meet remotely or “virtually” in order to protect the health of the public or Board members; and

WHEREAS, the business of the Board must continue even if medical or health emergencies related to COVID-19 arise; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the Maryland Open Meetings Act requires that the Board hold its meetings in public, unless otherwise permitted under the Act.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that notwithstanding any other Policy of the Board, in the event of a medical or health emergency related to COVID-19, and until Board policy can be amended to provide more specific guidelines, an individual Board member is hereby authorized to participate in Board meetings or Board committee meetings remotely, and without being physically present at the meeting, as long as the member is able to listen to and communicate fully with the other members at the meeting; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that notwithstanding any other Policy of the Board, and until Board policy can be amended to provide more specific guidelines, in the event of a medical or health emergency related to COVID-19, the Board chair, in consultation with the vice chair and the superintendent, may declare that a Board meeting or a Board committee meeting be held remotely in its entirety, without the physical presence of Board members, or in a hybrid manner with only some individual Board members participating remotely, subject to the establishment of a mechanism that would allow each Board member the opportunity to fully participate in the meeting despite not being physically present and that would allow the public to also remotely attend those portions of the meeting that are open pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Act, by being able to listen and/or view those portions of the meeting; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the superintendent is authorized to establish an appropriate technological mechanism that would allow Board members, individually or as a whole, to fully participate in meetings remotely, without being physically present; and which would allow the public to attend the meeting by being able to fully listen to those portions of the meeting that are open pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Act.



October 13, 2020

Kathleen S. Causey
Chair

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