INTERNAL BOARD POLICIES: Duties and Responsibilities

Orientation of New Board Members

I. Policy Statement

A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) believes that it is important that a new member be knowledgeable about school board governance and the operation of the school system, and, insofar as possible, be prepared to discuss and cast informed votes on matters before the Board.

B. The Board and the administrative staff shall assist each new member to understand the Board’s functions, policies, Superintendent’s rules and operation of the school system upon being sworn in.

II. New Board Orientation

A. As soon as practicable upon appointment and/or election to the Board, the Superintendent shall schedule an orientation session to acquaint new Board members to the operations of the Board and Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS).

B. The orientation session for each newly appointed or elected school board member includes:
   1. Convening a meeting for the primary purpose of orienting new members to his or her responsibilities; policy-making and administration; legal and fiscal responsibilities; open meeting laws; Board structure and organization; and the mission and goals of BCPS.
   2. Providing each new member selected material on the functions of the Board and BCPS.
   3. Inviting each new member to meet with the Superintendent.
   4. Providing each new member online access to, and training on, relevant systems and networks.
   5. Providing each new member training on accessing the Board’s policies and Superintendent’s rules on the BCPS Web site.

C. All new members are strongly encouraged to attend workshops for new Board members conducted by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA).
III. Implementation

The Board shall implement this policy.

Policy Board of Education of Baltimore County
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