

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION ON

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY

20-0038-000 PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

August 12, 2024

Background Information:

The Board maintains a manual which sets forth the various policies of the Harford County Public Schools (“HCPS”). The manual contains policies which are either required by federal and state law and regulation or which are, in the Board’s judgment, necessary and appropriate for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate, and effective manner.

Discussion:

In November 2006, the Board adopted a Public Information Act Requests policy (the “Policy”), which was most recently amended in December 2010. This Policy advised of the public’s right to access public records from HCPS and provided information on the process for requesting and processing such requests. Maryland’s Public Information Act (“MPIA”) was originally codified in Section 10-611 *et seq.* of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The statute was repealed in 2014 and the MPIA was then shifted to Title 4 of the General Provision Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The principal purpose of the proposed changes to the Policy is to reflect the change in the law and identify the proper statutes under which citizens will submit MPIA requests and HCPS will review and respond to such requests. Moreover, the proposed Policy refers to the Maryland Attorney General’s MPIA Manual and a detailed Procedure, both of which align with current submission, processing, and production requirements under the MPIA.

The Board Policy Review Committee met and reviewed the proposed, revised Policy on May 1, 2024. No issues, concerns, or objections were raised at that time. The proposed Policy was presented to the Board on June 24, 2024 and posted for public comment following this presentation. One public comment was received and considered but did not result in any necessary or substantive changes to the proposed Policy.

Attachments:

1. Current Board Policy 20-0038-000 entitled Public Information Act Requests.
2. Proposed, revised Board Policy 20-0038-000 entitled Public Information Act Requests.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

For the foregoing reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board review the proposed, revised policy entitled 20-0038-000 entitled Public Information Act Requests for approval at a subsequent Board meeting.