



MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR EDUCATION

Richard P. Henry
Inspector General

Douglas H. Roloff, III
Deputy Inspector General

January 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL (makedascott@mybcps.info)

The Honorable Makeda Scott
Board Chair
Baltimore County Board of Education
6901 N. Charles Street
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Mrs. Scott,

Over the past several months, the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education (OIGE) has received complaints concerning some members' decorum while conducting meetings and communications through the use of social media associated with the Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) - Board of Education (BOE). Numerous complaints have been expressed by way of phone calls, emails, and provided social media screen shots which convey parental and teaching professionals' concerns regarding unprofessional behavior during televised board meetings and through the use of social media accounts.

My office has had an opportunity to review these complaints in an attempt to determine if they warrant action. Additionally, my office has had an opportunity to review the Board of Education of Baltimore County Handbook (dated July 2015) concerning alleged misconduct by a board member. As noted in the Board of Education Handbook: "The Board commits to interact with each other, superintendent, BCPS staff, members of the public, elected officials, students, parents, media and other stakeholder groups respectfully and agrees to follow established communication protocols."¹

Furthermore, the Board of Education Handbook references the use of Robert's Rules of Order, (Revised) as the presiding authority or guide when conducting meetings. As this applies: "In debate a member must confine himself to the question before the assembly and avoid personalities."²

¹ Board of Education of Baltimore County Handbook (July 2015), Appendix A, Board of Education, Baltimore County Public Schools, Norms and Operating Protocols, Number 3. – Communications respectfully and honestly, page 22

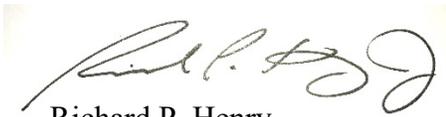
² Robert's Rule of Order, Article VII, Number 43 – Decorum in Debate

Our review has concluded that BCPS does not have a policy pertaining to the use of social media by a BOE member, nor employees of the BCPS system. There is a telecommunications policy governing the use of student's names and pictures on social media site which are used to promote BCPS.

The OIGE recommends that the BCPS, BOE revise its current BOE Handbook (dated 2015) and incorporate a "use of social media" policy governing BOE members and BCPS staff. Similar educational policies regarding the use of social media can be found on a number of local school systems' websites throughout the State of Maryland.

After reviewing footage of publicly available BOE recorded meetings and social media accounts of BOE members, the OIGE has determined this matter to be an internal Baltimore County Public School, Board of Education matter and is referring it to the Board Chair for further action.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Richard P. Henry
Inspector General

cc: Dr. Darryl Williams, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., General Counsel