

of general circulation in the county, to provide all interested parties an opportunity to present their views. Any petition by such residents of the county must be filed at the office of the county board of education within fifteen days after the official action of the board preliminarily approving such site. In the event that a hearing is held as described above, minutes shall be kept and the board of education shall, after due deliberation, submit the minutes of the hearing, together with its recommendation, to the State Superintendent of Schools for use in rendering a decision on his approval of the site. No request for site approval shall be made to the State Superintendent of Schools by any county board until after the expiration of fifteen days from its official action recommending the site or until after a hearing, if one shall have been held, whichever shall last occur.

(c) *Architects.*—The county board of education is authorized and empowered, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, to employ an architect or architects to assist in the preparation of plans and specifications for remodeling buildings and for constructing new buildings.

(D) BUILDING REGULATIONS—THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN THE CONSTRUCTION OR REMODELING OF BUILDINGS, SHALL CONFORM TO ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING REGULATIONS, WHETHER ISSUED BY A STATE OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, FIRE, AND PLUMBING CODES.

48. *Legal Counsel.*

Each county board of education except Baltimore County is authorized and empowered to secure the services of attorneys at law to represent it in legal matters affecting said board and to contract for the payment of a reasonable fee to such attorneys. Funds for such fees shall be placed in the annual budget. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN BALTIMORE COUNTY IS AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF ATTORNEYS AT LAW IN LEGAL MATTERS INVOLVING DISPUTES WITH THE BALTIMORE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

49. *Advisory Committee* COMMITTEES.

It shall be the policy of the county boards of education to establish such citizen-advisory committees as they deem necessary to facilitate the activities and programs of the boards and any school or schools under their supervision.

50. *Donations.*

The county board of education may receive donations of school grounds and school sites, or of houses already built suitably located and adapted to school purposes, but in no case shall any site be built upon, or any house be occupied, until a good and sufficient title or leasehold of a term sufficient to outlast the probable useful life of any building to be erected thereon has been obtained for the same in the corporate name of the board.

51. *Eminent domain.*

When land shall be required for the site of a school or for enlarging a school site, for playgrounds, or for other school purposes, and