

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0008R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Curran,
Kraft, Holton, Branch, Welch, Reisinger, Henry, Cole, Middleton, Spector, Young
Introduced and adopted: January 28, 2008

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

School Based Budgets for the Baltimore City School System

1
2 FOR the purpose of requesting a public meeting in February with the Board and CEO of the
3 BCPSS to discuss the progress being made in producing a FY 2009 operational budget that is
4 school-based, transparent, reliable, and understandable to families, students, teachers,
5 principals, elected officials, and the City of Baltimore as a whole.

6 **WHEREAS**, The annual operating budget for the Baltimore City Public School System
7 (BCPSS) is a crucial document for families, students, teachers, principals, elected officials, and
8 the entire City of Baltimore to clearly understand; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The most important issue for interested parties is how much of the total budget is
10 being invested directly in the schools and, most specifically, in each individual school
11 throughout the system; and

12 **WHEREAS**, A generalized budget of non-locational expenditures fails the “transparency test”
13 by failing to clearly delineate the percentage of dollars allocated to the schools themselves as
14 compared with the percentage allocated to non-school-based administrative functions; and

15 **WHEREAS**, That same generalized budget format fails the “reliability test” by failing to serve
16 as the system’s commitment to the staffing, resources, equipment, security, and thoughtful
17 planning upon which individual schools and their communities have every right to rely each
18 spring, at the time the BCPSS budget as a whole is adopted for the following school year; and

19 **WHEREAS**, In the current budget situation, our principals and their SIT teams lack the budget
20 knowledge and security to exercise the planning authority required to assume school-based
21 responsibility for the success of their schools; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The Baltimore City Council and its Education Committee have consistently
23 urged that the BCPSS budget for fiscal year 2009 be built from the schools up, with a budget
24 display for each school within the system and with a separate category for non-locational
25 administrative functions; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The City Council and Education Committee have also consistently urged that the
27 BCPSS budget format represent a useful tool that interested parties can readily understand and
28 rely on in questioning, testifying, and supporting the individual schools their children attend.

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
30 Baltimore City Council and its Education Committee do hereby request a public meeting in

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 February with the Board and CEO of the BCPSS to discuss the progress being made in
2 producing a FY 2009 operational budget that is school-based, transparent, reliable, and
3 understandable to families, students, teachers, principals, elected officials and the City of
4 Baltimore as a whole.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to by way of
6 information and invitation, to President Brian Morris and all members of the Baltimore City
7 Board of School Commissioners, to CEO Andres Alonso, and to the Mayor's Legislative Liaison
8 to the Baltimore City Council.