



HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0012R

Investigative Hearing – Safe Return to In-Person Schooling

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth  
Chaired by: Robert Stokes, Sr.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2021  
Time (Beginning): 5:00 PM  
Time (Ending): 8:05 PM  
Location: Virtual “WebEx” Meeting  
Total Attendance: Approximately 125

Committee Members in Attendance:

Robert Stokes, Sr.      James Torrence  
John Bullock            Sharon Green Middleton  
Antonio Glover         Zeke Cohen  
Phylicia Porter

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by: .....	Councilmember Glover		
Seconded by: .....	Councilmember Porter		
Final Vote: .....	Favorable		

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Diamonte Brown, Baltimore Teachers’ Union
- Joseph Kane, Parent Community Advisory Board
- Sonja B. Santelises, CEO, Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS)

- Jonathan Collins, Baltimore City Public School System
- Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, Health Commissioner
- Kevin Quinn, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Melissa Broome, Baltimore City Public School System
- Kimberly Vasquez, Speaker
- Melissa Schober, Speaker
- Chris Bilal, Speaker
- Kamala Carnes, Principal, Augusta Fells Savage
- Kelly Carideo, Principal, Beechfield Elementary/Middle
- Marigold Lewi, Speaker
- Matin Thomas, Student (7<sup>th</sup> Grade), Baltimore Design School
- Jocelyn Providence, Speaker
- Keysha Goodwin, Speaker
- Geoffrey Washington, Parent
- Miguel Cervantes del Toro, Principal, Callaway Elementary
- Shamar Hodge, Parent
- Tammatha Woodhouse, Principal, Renaissance Academy High School
- Tracey Pratt, Principal, Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy
- Brittany Johnston, Speaker
- Franca Muller Paz, Speaker
- Kiegan Montgomery, Speaker

---

### Major Issues Discussed

1. Several representatives from the Baltimore City Public School System testified. Some highlights of their discussion were:
  - Dr. Santelises – gave a PowerPoint presentation, entitled “Safe Return to In-Person Schooling.” *A copy is on file.*
  - Mr. Collins talked about the air quality, purification and ventilation in the city’s schools.
  - Ms. Broome showed a short video and read three (3) statements received from parents/grandparents. *Copies of the video and statements are on file.*
2. Mr. Quinn from the Maryland Department of Transportation – gave a PowerPoint presentation, “Safe Return to In-Person Schooling.” *A copy is on file.*
3. Public testimony was received from approximately twenty (20) speakers. Speakers represented and/or were: teachers, students, principals, the public and etc.
4. The committee/councilmembers asked questions, stated concerns and asked for clarification for some issues. Some highlights from same were:
  - Several Questions regarding:
    - Vaccinations
    - Personal Protective Gear
    - Proper hand hygiene being in school restrooms
    - Disparity issues
    - Transportation services/Routes/Overcrowding on Buses
    - Closing the Digital Divide

- Partnerships surrounding testing – who are they?
- Other Questions and/or Concerns were:
  - School Related:
    - What does a typical day look like for students and how will they be protected?
    - What are some of the things that could happen that may change your course for re-opening?
    - If an outbreak happens how will schools be closed? What will be the process? What will be the indicators and/or metrics used to close?
    - How will teachers teach online and in-person simultaneously?
    - How often will students and the staff be tested and how will contact tracing be implemented?
    - What role and/or have student leaders been involved in school reopening?
    - What happens if too many students want to come back and how will it work?
    - How do you plan to tackle disparities moving forward?
    - After School/Out of School Time – Is there anything to compensate for after school time and/or programs?
    - Sanitation Concerns:
      - What are the mechanisms in place for sanitation?
      - What mechanisms are in place if people express concern over sanitation problems? How will it be addressed? How can they come forward for concerns about school and transportation sanitary issues?
  - Online Learning
    - Concern: Some students are struggling with online learning
    - Concern: Performance level of students
    - Request: Please talk more about our students with disabilities!
  - Transportation Concerns:
    - Too many people being on buses: How do you plan to prevent overcrowding?
    - How will students enter and exit the buses?
    - How many more buses will be added to the routes?

5. Vote taken. The chairman gave closing remarks, thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the hearing.

### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

**Committee Vote:**

R. Stokes, Sr. .... **Yea**  
J. Bullock..... **Out of Meeting**  
Z. Cohen ..... **Yea**  
A. Glover ..... **Yea**  
S. Green Middleton..... **Yea**  
P. Porter ..... **Yea**  
J. Torrence ..... **Yea**

---

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: February 5, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: Feb. 4, 2021

RESOLUTION #: 21-0012R

BILL TITLE: Investigative Hearing – Safe Return to In-Person Schooling

MOTION BY: Glover      SECONDED BY: Porter

- FAVORABLE                       FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
 UNFAVORABLE                       WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Stokes, Sr., Robert - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bullock, John	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohen, Zeke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glover, Antonio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Porter, Phylicia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrence, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Robert Stokes, Sr., Robert Sta

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin Initials: M.M.C.



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: <b>Council Resolution</b> – Investigative Hearing – Safe Return to In-Person Schooling	Resolution#: 21-0012R
Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth	Chair: Robert Stokes, Sr.
Date: <b>Thursday, February 4, 2021</b>	Time: 5:00 PM
Location: <b>WebEx Meeting</b>	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		See hearing Notes					

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Education Workforce and Youth

---

Thursday, February 4, 2021

5:00 PM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor: Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 179 064 1690, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0583b810060653a812ef12a17c548d90)  
MTID=e0583b810060653a812ef12a17c548d90

---

21-0012R  
CHARM TV

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Robert Stokes Sr., John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen, Antonio Glover, Sharon Green  
Middleton, Phylicia Porter, and James Torrence

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 21-0012R

##### **Investigative Hearing - Safe Return to In-Person Schooling**

For the purpose of inviting the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System to provide the City Council with an update regarding safety precautions the School System is taking for the return of students to in-person schooling and inviting representatives from the Baltimore City Fire Department, Health Department, and Department of Housing and Community Development to comment on the adequacy of those safety precautions.

**Sponsors:** Robert Stokes, Sr., Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Kristerfer Burnett, John T. Bullock, Odette Ramos, James Torrence, Antonio Glover, Mark Conway, Zeke Cohen

A motion was made by Member Glover, seconded by Member Porter, that City Council Resolution 21-0012R be recommended favorably.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Stokes Sr., Cohen, Glover, Middleton, Porter, and Torrence

Out-Chamber: 1 - Bullock

#### ADJOURNMENT