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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Ways and Means (WM) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. WM will exercise regular oversight of the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include budget & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023
10:01 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Legislative Oversight #LO 21-0003

Budget Briefing – Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

**Fiscal Year 2022 Closeout
and
1st Quarter Budget Briefing– Fiscal Year 2023**

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LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Ways and Means

Legislative Oversight # LO 21-0003

Budget Briefing – Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

Purpose:

For the purpose of calling on regular budget oversight hearings for Baltimore City Public Schools to improve transparency and accountability in the allocation of over a billion dollars in public funding for the vital task of educating Baltimore's children.

Agencies/Organizations Reporting

Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)	
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Current Law

Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, Sections 1-5 and 1-6

§ 1-5. Agencies to provide budget status reports.

(a) Reports required.

On or before November 1, February 1, May 1, and August 1 each year, the City agencies so requested shall file quarterly budget status reports with the Budget and Appropriations Committee of the City Council.

(b) Contents.

Each report shall contain the information required by the Committee and be in the format requested.

(c) Public hearing.

The Committee may hold a public hearing for those agencies not reporting or those showing a projected deficit for the fiscal year.

(d) "City agency" defined

The words "City agencies" include the City trustees and all City sponsored and financed nonprofit corporations.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §5.) (Ord. 72-211; Ord. 77-333; Ord. 81-568; Ord. 82-753.)

§ 1-6. Agencies to provide legislative information.

It shall be the duty of the head of every City department or bureau established by the Baltimore City Charter or by ordinance to provide all technical materials, plans, drawings, and information that are requested by any member or the President of the City Council for the purpose of introducing legislation into the Council.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §6.) (Ord. 76-080.)

Background

On February 8, 2022, representative(s) from BCPS came before the committee to discuss their second quarter projection for last fiscal year; October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

On May 10, 2022, representative(s) from BCPS came before the committee to discuss their third quarter projection for last fiscal year; January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022.

On February 7, 2023, a representative(s) from BCPS will come before the committee to discuss closeout for fiscal year 2022 which ended June 30, 2022 and to discuss the first quarter projection for fiscal year 2023; July 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2022.

Following are notes from the May 10, 2022 hearing

Major Items Discussed

1. The representative from BCPS gave a PowerPoint presentation. **A copy is on file.** Some highlighted comments were:
 - In this fiscal year (FY22) we are just getting back to normalcy from the pandemic
 - Is happy we (BCPS) have gotten through this much of the year without any major surprises
 - Don't have many vacancies; we held on to our employees!
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
 - School Lunches
 - A line item for lunch was on the last projection but is not on this projection, why not?
 - The lunch served and menu for same is important and of concern
 - Would like to have more information available for same
 - Per student, what is the reimbursement from the federal government for lunches? Answer: the highest reimbursement is \$4.20
3. Hearing called to recess.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: A PowerPoint presentation will be given by BCPS during the hearing.

Information Source(s): Notes from the May 10, 2022 hearing.

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Date: February 2, 2023