

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0234R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Young, Mitchell, D’Adamo

Introduced and read first time: November 20, 2006

Assigned to: Committee of the Whole

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System, Baltimore City School Board, Planning Department

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Facility Solutions – Our Children Deserve A Better Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor-Elect and the Maryland State Board of Education to
4 revise the policy of requiring school closures in return for State funding of capital needs
5 within the Baltimore City Public School System and to support a moratorium on the further
6 closure of schools under Phases 2 and 3 of the locally-adopted Facility Solutions Program.

7 **Recitals**

8 In Fall 2005, the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) undertook its Facility
9 Solutions Program to down-size its “schoolhouse” inventory over a three year period (school
10 years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09).

11 The State of Maryland, which funds school construction, rehabilitation, new additions and
12 systemic repair projects for public schools in all subdivisions, required that Baltimore City
13 reduce its “schoolhouse” inventory or lose capital funding entirely. In response, the School
14 Board proposed to reduce 2.7 million square feet (amounting to 15% of total inventory) over this
15 3 year period.

16 With the closing of 3 schools in year 1, the BCPSS was required to prepare 25 receiving
17 schools within 3 months to accept displaced and relocating students, at a cost of \$33 million in
18 local capital funds. In the process, about 4,300 students were displaced and relocated.

19 We commend the BCPSS for its heroic effort in accommodating year 1 decisions, but this
20 experience has demonstrated the logistical, financial and academic hardships involved.

21 Our students, families, teachers, and neighborhoods deserve a more planful and less
22 disruptive timeline for continuing this Facility Solutions Program of downsizing space, a
23 timeline which permits out schools to provide a safe, stable and successful learning environment
24 for all its students and which permits our School Board the time to renegotiate the definition of
25 legitimate school functions, for example to include the emerging mandate of community school
26 activities which encourage family involvement in schools by engaging partners in serving the
27 needs of entire school neighborhoods.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
2 Body requests the Governor-Elect and the Maryland State Board of Education to revise the
3 State’s requirements for the funding of capital needs in the Baltimore City Public School System
4 and to support a moratorium on the further closure of our schools until neighborhood-approved
5 and student appropriate relocation sites can be more planfully provided than is currently the case.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor-
7 Elect, the Honorable Chair and Members of the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland
8 General Assembly, the Director and Members of the Maryland State Board of Education, the
9 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, and the Governor-Elect’s Legislative Liaison to
10 the City Council.