

# CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON SCOTT – MAYOR

 ZEKE COHEN - COUNCIL PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

## HEARING NOTES

Bill: 25-0075

---

**Title:** Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

---

**Committee:** Budget & Appropriations  
**Chaired by:** Councilwoman Danielle McCray

**Hearing Date:** 5/15/2025  
**Time (Beginning):** 2:40 PM  
**Time (Ending):** 3:20 PM  
**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 25  
**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Danielle McCray	Isaac (Yitzy) Schleifer	
Sharon Middleton	Paris Gray	Antonio Glover

---

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 type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Agency reports read? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Hearing televised 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 type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Motioned by: .....			
Seconded by: .....			
Final Vote: .....			

---

### Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Christopher Doherty, Chief Financial Officer Baltimore City Public Schools System
- Alison Perkins-Cohen – Chief of Staff Baltimore City Public Schools System

---

### **Major Issues Discussed**

1. Chairwoman McCray welcomed colleagues, members of the Administration, and attendees. Chairwoman introduced 25-0075, Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.
2. The floor was open to Christopher Doherty, Chief Financial Officer and Alison Perkins-Cohen, Chief of Staff from Baltimore City Public Schools System [See PowerPoint].
  - The budget presented reflects a 6 % increase in year-over-year funding dedicated to sustaining the major investments and salary increases for teachers and other staff.
    - Every school's budget for FY26 reflects a year-over-year increase from FY25
    - Blueprint Design indicates that schools with higher-need student populations received more funding
    - End of ESSER – however some programming will continue but will need to come out of the school budget
    - Increase position costs
  - Update on the reimbursement of \$48 million (funding through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund (ESSER) allotted funding through the CARES Act).
    - Due to the injunction that was granted BCPSS was able to submit all reimbursements by the deadline of May 12, 2025.
    - BCPSS are still concerned about the federal funding landscape for the upcoming year.
  - Proposed FY26 Budget priorities
    - Accelerating student achievement in literacy and math
    - Building college and career readiness through secondary success and innovation
    - Improving attendance and dropout re-engagement
    - Supporting mental health
3. Chairwoman McCray opened the floor to questions from the committee members. Topics discussed in the hearing are as follows:
  - Building stronger partnerships within the city. [See further study request].
    - Provide a list of partnering City Agencies with BCPSS (ex: JARC Baltimore)
    - Conversations with CP and Mayor's team about the need for city agencies in terms of hiring for city jobs.
  - Shared the accolade for Commodore John Rodger's Elementary School
    - Won the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship

- Importance of uplifting successes
- Future of Community School Coordinators
  - Vital role for students and families - \$16 million investment in the budget
  - Half are employed by BCPSS and other half by external partners
  - Sharing needs/resources with Community School Coordinators
  - Need to preserve this program through legislation at the State level

4. Hearing called to a recess.

---

**Further Study**

**Was further study requested?**

☒ **Yes**    ☐ **No**

**If yes, describe.**

Bill #	Committee Member	Request	Requested Agency	Timeline
L025-0075	Middleton	Provide a list of partnering city agencies on projects with Baltimore City Public Schools to include partnerships with apprenticeship programs.	BCPSS	5/22/2025

---

**Committee Vote: N/A**

---

Paroma Nandi , Committee Staff

Date: 5/15/2025

Cc: Bill File