

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 07-0303R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Young, D’Adamo, Holton, Reisinger, Mitchell,  
Middleton  
Introduced and adopted: June 4, 2007

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Restoring Needed Funds to BCPSS**

1  
2 FOR the purpose of urging the Mayor and Board of Estimates to use Rainy Day Funds to “make  
3 whole” the \$25 million pledged for BCPSS new construction and renovation of local school  
4 buildings and to maintain the Administration’s current operational budget commitment to  
5 after-school and community-school programs.

**Recitals**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, this Baltimore City Council, just one year ago, approved a supplementary  
8 appropriation, proposed by then Mayor Martin O’Malley, to provide \$25 million in surplus  
9 dollars to address the capital needs, for new school construction and renovations, of the  
10 Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS).

11 **WHEREAS**, this \$25 million was represented as a “down payment” on a total Mayor and City  
12 Council capital contribution of \$75 million to meet BCPSS’ capital needs, with additional funds  
13 from the sale of surplus schools, from general obligation bonds approved by City voters, and  
14 from future surplus dollars.

15 **WHEREAS**, an example of the wisdom and urgency of this appropriation is the current  
16 shortfall in required capital dollars to prepare “receiving schools” by August 2007 for the influx  
17 of students displaced through current school closures and consolidations.

18 **WHEREAS**, the “receiving school” cost for August 2006 was \$33 million and involved the  
19 “transfer” of almost 5,000 students displaced by school closures and consolidations.

20 **WHEREAS**, this \$25 million was never transferred to BCPSS and has now been reduced by  
21 \$5 million through actions of the Finance Department and Board of Estimates.

22 **WHEREAS**, the rationale for this “cut” has been to provide operational funding for after-  
23 school and community-school programs, whose advocates had argued with the new Mayor’s  
24 Transition Team for stable sources of ongoing funding as opposed to one-time, surplus funding.

25 **WHEREAS**, our Baltimore City students will suffer a net loss of \$5 million should this capital  
26 cut go unchallenged and uncorrected in the course of the City Council’s current Fiscal Year 2008  
27 budget deliberations.

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

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1       **WHEREAS**, this transfer unfairly pits the equally compelling values of after-school and  
2 community-school programs against our City’s urgent need to build new schools, renovate old  
3 ones, and retrofit existing school buildings for the influx of thousands of displaced students.

4       **WHEREAS**, in the short term, the City’s “Rainy Day Fund” has a current balance of \$75  
5 million, and “It’s raining!” in our school buildings and school communities.

6       **WHEREAS**, the “Rainy Day Fund” is of recent origin and is available for just such crises as  
7 this “cut,” transfer, and \$5 million net loss.

8       **WHEREAS**, what better use than *now* of the “Rainy Day Fund’s” all-time-high balance than  
9 to protect and enrich our children through stable after-school and community-school programs  
10 and to pursue the City’s goal of well-equipped, heated, cooled, attractive, sanitary, secure, and  
11 functional environments for every child’s education, in every neighborhood of our City.

12       **WHEREAS**, if our children are the City’s priority, we cannot in justice accept an “either-or”  
13 response to their multiple and basic requirements for success, a response that should never be  
14 allowed to pit advocate against advocate or need against need.

15       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
16 Baltimore City Council, in the throes of its budget deliberations, calls upon the Mayor and the  
17 Board of Estimates to resolve the current crisis in funding-for-students by restoring the \$5  
18 million now to the \$25 million capital fund, using the “Rainy Day Fund” if necessary, and by  
19 retaining the funds appropriated for after-school and community-school programs, pledging to  
20 incorporate this funding into the core of future budgets.

21       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be hand-carried to the  
22 following, for their attention: the Mayor; the City’s Finance and Budget directors; Dr. Charlene  
23 Cooper Boston, CEO, BCPSS; Mr. Keith Scroggins, COO, BCPSS; and President Brian Morris  
24 and all members of the BCPSS Board of School Commissioners.