

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ANDRÉS A. ALONSO, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer
200 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

May 6, 2008

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall
100 North Holiday Street, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill No. 08-0104

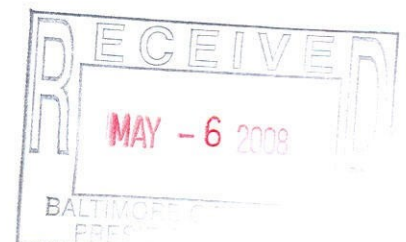
Dear Madame President and Members of the Baltimore City Council:

I would like to express the strong support of the Baltimore City Public Schools Board of School Commissioners for the above-referenced legislation. We are pleased that this legislation provides a Supplementary General Fund Capital Appropriation – Mayoralty-Related – of \$5,000,000 for school construction and renovation projects.

As you may be aware, the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) has been conducting its third year of Facility Solutions, the planning process by which we are attempting to “right-size” our school facilities in response to a mandate from the State. This process involves changing grade configurations of schools, in some cases, as well as relocation or closure of some programs. Many school renovations must be done to adequately accommodate our transitioning students. These renovations have been, and continue to be, very expensive.

It is our understanding that this \$5,000,000 appropriation – in conjunction with other funds – is intended to enable the Honorable Mayor Sheila Dixon to fulfill her commitment to provide \$14,000,000 to the BCPSS for its Facility Solutions Phase III program, which includes the expansion of several elementary schools to Pre-K to 8 configurations.

I would like to provide for you a detailed breakdown of exactly how the Baltimore City Public School System would use the \$14,000,000 that was previously committed to us from Baltimore City by former Mayor Martin O’Malley and by Mayor Sheila Dixon. The chart below itemizes the projects that are needed at several schools this summer, in order to prepare for the additional student populations resulting from Facility Solutions III changes, as well as the respective costs.



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Sch #	School Name	Cost	Project
25	Dr. Raynor Browne	\$1,200,000	Expand to 8 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
27	Commodore Rodgers	\$250,000	Expand to 8 th grade. Computer Lab
62	Edgecombe Circle	\$1,300,000	Expand to 7 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
124	Bay Brook	\$1,000,000	Expand to 8 th grade. 4 classroom modular unit
212	Garrett Heights	\$1,750,000	Expand to 7 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
223	Pimlico	\$1,200,000	Expand to 8 th grade. 8 classroom modular unit
228	John Ruhrah	\$1,550,000	Expand to 7 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
232	Thomas Jefferson	\$300,000	Expand to 8 th grade. Program accommodations.
234	Arlington	\$750,000	Expand to 7 th grade. Science Lab
234	Arlington	\$1,200,000	Expand to 7 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
240	Graceland Park	\$300,000	Expand to 8 th grade. Computer Lab
240	Graceland Park	\$1,200,000	Expand to 8 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
243	Armistead Gardens	\$500,000	Expand to 8 th grade. Science Lab
243	Armistead Gardens	\$1,500,000	Expand to 8 th grade. 10 classroom modular unit
TOTAL		\$14,000,000	

This \$14,000,000 only begins to cover our total Facility Solutions III expenses; however, these funds are greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public School System
Secretary, Board of School Commissioners

CC: Brian Morris
Bennie E. Williams
Dr. Mary Minter
J. Keith Scroggins
John Walker
Michael Sarbanes