



**HEARING NOTES**

**Resolution: 21-0057R**

**Investigative Hearing – School Performance Improvement**

**Committee:** Education, Workforce, and Youth  
**Chaired by** Robert Stokes, Sr., John Bullock and Phylicia Porter (In part)

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021  
**Time (Beginning):** 5:00 PM  
**Time (Ending):** 7:20 PM  
**Location:** Virtual “WebEx” Meeting  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 70

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Robert Stokes, Sr.      James Torrence  
John Bullock            Sharon Green Middleton  
Antonio Glover         Zeke Cohen  
Phylicia Porter

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Motioned by: .....	Councilmember Torrence		
Seconded by: .....	Councilmember Glover		
Final Vote: .....	Favorable		

**Major Speakers**  
*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Johnette Richardson, Board of School Commissioner
- Sonja B. Santelises, CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

- John Davis, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Joan Dabrowski, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Alison Perkins-Cohen, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Tina Hike-Hubbard, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Jeremy Grant-Skinner, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Yolanda Pulley, Speaker
  - Jason Rodriguez, Speaker
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## Major Issues Discussed

1. President Mosby gave opening remarks and informed the attendees about the guidelines pertaining to questions for BCPS staff. He said, it's been a very trying time due to COVID. Our students received virtual learning for over one and one-half years and are just returning to school in-person. He also talked about some of the recent commendations/citations presented to several BCPS staff members.
2. Several representatives on behalf of Baltimore City Public Schools testified. Some highlights of their discussion were:
  - Ms. Richardson - introduced the members and staff for the Board of School Commissioners and gave opening remarks. She talked about how COVID-19 affected teaching and about some of the challenges associated with same; present and past challenges.
  - Dr. Santelises along with other BCPS staff – gave a PowerPoint presentation, entitled “School Performance Improvement.” *A copy is on file.*
3. The committee/councilmembers asked questions, stated concerns, and asked for clarification for some issues. Some highlights from same were:
  - Questions:
    - What factors are used to determine school performance?
    - What is the process for setting performance goals and/or targets?
    - When you have multiple students living under the same household and one gets COVID, what are your procedures and/or reporting requirements?
    - What are you doing to help maintain the health of the teachers?
    - Can you talk about some of the learning plans and what is being done to get the students back on track?
    - How does a student(s) keep up with his/her learning when quarantined due to COVID?
    - Organizational Excellence – What does this work look like?
    - What are some of the “lessons learned” as a result of the pandemic?
    - Can you share the matrixes you used for your acceleration model (located on page 18 of the Presentation)? **Per CEO Santelises will forward the study to the committee**
    - Talk a little more about how you are addressing issues surrounding mental health
    - Explain the processes in place when schools do not follow the appropriate CDC health and safety guidelines.
    - What are the characteristics of the individualized learning plan(s)?
    - Level of trauma – how does it tie into the learning plans? And how do teachers know (the red flags) how to initiate the next step/process?

- Comments/Concerns
  - Mental Health Issues
    - Talked about the importance of having conversations regarding mental health issues
    - Concerns: high degrees of trauma and high levels of stress and/or depression
    - Expanding mental health to staff – what are you doing to:
      - Build morale
      - Support staff and
      - Address mental health issues?
  - Emergency Preparedness
    - Hope we don't have to close down our schools again!
    - What is the plan(s) if we start seeing real COVID outbreaks in our schools?
  - Soap/Hygiene Supplies
    - Where are you with stocking/storing these supplies?
  - Ghost Students and Grade Changing
    - These issues have been a part of our culture! What are you doing to change this culture and for holding school staff accountable?
    - How are you making sure our students are mastering fundamental learning?
  - Students in the 17 to 21 years of age group
    - A lot of them are working
    - What is the long-term plan for these students? Such as: virtual learning/academy?
  - Kerwin Funding
    - When will you receive the funding? What does the timeline look like?

4. Two (2) attendees gave public testimony. Some highlights/concerns of their conversation were:

- Both speakers called for CEO Santelises resignation
- Concerns:
  - Students not wearing masks on transit/school buses or in school
  - An increase in home schooling
  - Falling schools
  - Grade changing

5. Vote taken. Hearing concluded.

### Further Study

Was further study requested

Yes  No

If yes, describe. See "yellow highlight" in #3 of Major Discussion section above.

### Committee Vote:

R. Stokes, Sr. .... Yea  
J. Bullock ..... Yea  
Z. Cohen ..... Yea  
A. Glover ..... Yea  
S. Green Middleton..... Yea  
P. Porter ..... Yea  
J. Torrence ..... Yea

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: September 24, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: Sept. 23, 2021

RESOLUTION #: 21-0057R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Investigative Hearing – School Performance Improvement

MOTION BY: Torrence      SECONDED BY: Glover

- FAVORABLE                       FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
 UNFAVORABLE                       WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
<del>Stokes, Sr., Robert - Chair</del>	<del>7</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>Bullock, John</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>Cohen, Zeke</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>Glover, Antonio</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>Middleton, Sharon</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>Porter, Phylicia</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>Torrence, James</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>	<del>0</del>
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

CHAIRPERSON: Robert Stokes, Sr.      Robert Stokes

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin      Initials: M.M. Currin



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> <b>Council Resolution</b> – Investigative Hearing – School Performance Improvement	<b>Resolution#:</b> 21-0057R
<b>Committee:</b> Education, Workforce, and Youth	<b>Chair:</b> Robert Stokes, Sr.
<b>Date:</b> Thursday, September 23, 2021	<b>Time:</b> 5:00 PM
<b>Location:</b> WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		See hearing notes					

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Education Workforce and Youth

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Thursday, September 23, 2021

5:00 PM Webex Hearing: Phone: +1-408-418-9388, Access Code:  
179 051 7110, Password: Public, Link:  
[https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef59bc40725d2b6f8758a86f4e7e74db1)  
MTID=ef59bc40725d2b6f8758a86f4e7e74db1

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21-0057R

Rescheduled from 9-16-21

CHARM TV 25

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Robert Stokes Sr., John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen, Antonio Glover, Sharon Green  
Middleton, Phylcia Porter, and James Torrence

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

21-0057R

##### Investigative Hearing - School Performance Improvement

For the purpose of inviting the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, representatives from the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, representatives from the Parent and Community Advisory Board, representatives from the Baltimore Teachers Union, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss how BCPSS plans to improve student performance during the 2021/2022 academic school year.

Sponsors: Robert Stokes, Sr., John T. Bullock, Odette Ramos

A motion was made by Member Torrence, seconded by Member Glover, that City Council Resolution 21-0057R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Stokes Sr., Bullock, Cohen, Glover, Middleton, Porter, and Torrence

#### ADJOURNMENT