CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



BOARD of SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

200 E. North Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21202 Telephone: 410-396-8709

Fax: 410-545-3613

May 12, 2008

The Honorable Mary Pat Clarke Chairman, Education Committee Of the Baltimore City Council City Hall Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Madam Chair:

City Council Bill 08-0093 would modify the start of the daytime curfew for minors. Specifically, the bill would make it unlawful for a parent of any minor under the age of 16 to knowingly permit, or by insufficient control, to allow that minor to be in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on any day during which the minor is required to be in school. Furthermore, it prohibits an establishment from knowingly permitting any minor under the age of 16 to remain on the premises of that establishment during the same time period. The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners commends your efforts and the City Council's efforts to address truancy and to find innovative ways to ensure that students are in school and learning. However, modifying the daytime curfew would interfere with ours student's ability to travel freely to and from school, therefore we respectfully request that the legislation be withdrawn or voted unfavorable.

The Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) has a very extensive bell schedule for the upcoming school year. (See attached). This bell schedule is made in consultation with principals, teachers, parents and the Mass Transit Association (MTA). Many schools begin their instructional day after 7:45 a.m. with some as late as 9:00 am, which means students will be traveling to school during the time in which the curfew prohibits minors from being "in any public place". Many of our high school students participate in work - study programs which give them real world opportunities as a part of their educational experience. Additionally, two charter schools have days in which their school day ends prior to 2:30 p.m. which would again cause minors to be violating the current law, if they were to be found in a public place or any establishment.

The manner in which the law is drafted provides no exceptions for students that are traveling to school during the prohibited hours. The law specifically indicates it is unlawful for the minor to be in any public place or establishment between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on ANY DAY DURING WHICH THE MINOR IS REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL. Should a student have an early dismissal, for any reason, technically, the student is violating the law if he or she would go to an establishment or public place during the prohibited hours, and we do not believe that is your intention.

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Additionally, the incremental denial of our students rights to be on the premises of an establishment or in a public place to do something as simple as buy a soda or juice prior to or after school seems to further cast our students in the category of disruptive and deviant which the overwhelming majority are not. We cannot and will not support any initiative that infringes upon the rights of the students even if the initiative is rooted in the best of intentions. Curfews such as this may only foster the general public's negative perception of our children.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners respectfully request that the legislation be withdrawn or have the Education Committee vote it unfavorable. If you have any questions, please contact me or Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq., Legislative Liaison at the above number.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Morris

Chairman

Cc: Dr. Andres Alonso

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners

The Honorable Sheila Dixon

Angela Gibson

Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS)
Instructional Day Bell Schedule for School Year 2008-2009

	4	7	13	15	21	22	27	28	35	41	42	49	53	54	55	56	57	62		
7:45 a.m.	66	73	78	79	82	84	85	87	88	89	95	130	133	142	144	150	157			
7:45 a.m 2:35 p.m.	160	170	201	205	206	207	209	211	213	214	215	217	219	220	223	224	226			
	228	230	236	239	241	242	248	249	250	255	256	260	263	303	420	429	431			
8:00 a.m 2:50 p.m	5	10	11	12	16	23	25	29	31	34	39	45	50	58	61	67	83	86	98	145
2:50 p.m.	159	163	164	181	203	204	210	231	232	233E	234	237	245	246	251	254	261	406		
8:15 a.m 3:05 p.m.	24	60	76	81	138	221	235	233M	240	335	400					B				
1 3:05	403	407	410	413	413E	414	419	425	430	454	480									
8:30 a.m 3:20 p.m	434	435																		
3:20 p.m.	333																			
8:45 a.m	51	64	80	124	162	178	225	288	372											
5 a.m 3:35 p.m.	401	405	416	421	424	450	457	488E	488W	488C										
9:00 a.m.	24-D	36	37	46	75	105	122	134	177	202	212	229	243	247		*				
9:00 a.m 3:50 p.m.	301	307	313	314	418	426	451													

Notes:

1. Elementary Schools dismiss 10 minutes earlier than the time posted on the schedule above.

2. On an early-release day, the school day is 3 hours and 30 minutes.

321	262	125	107	97	63	47	44	8	School #
8:30-3:20	7:45-2:25	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:45	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	7:30-3:15	Monday
8:30-3:20	7:45-2:25	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:45	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	7:30-3:15	Tuesday
8:30-3:20	7:45-2:25	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:45	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	7:30-3:15	Wednesday
8:30-3:20	7:45-2:25	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:45	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	7:30-3:15	Thursday
8:30-3:20	7:45-2:25	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:35	7:45-2:45	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	8:00-2:40	7:30-3:15	Friday
420A	415	332	331	330	329	328	327	326	School #
7:45 - 2:35	8:15 - 4:10	9:00-3:45	7:45 - 3:10	8:00 - 2:50	8:00 - 2:50	8:15 - 2:55	8:00 - 2:40	8:15 - 3:15	Monday
7:45 - 2:35	8:15 - 4:10	9:00-3:45	7:45 - 3:10	8:00 - 2:50	8:00 - 2:50	8:15 - 2:55	8:00 - 2:40	8:15 - 3:15	Tuesday
7:45 - 2:35	8:15 - 4:10	9:00-3:45	7:45 - 3:10	8:00 - 2:50	8:00 - 2:50	8:15 - 2:55	8:00 - 1:20	8:15 - 1:00	Wednesday
7:45 - 2:35	8:15 - 4:10	9:00-3:45	7:45 - 3:10	8:00 - 2:50	8:00 - 2:50	8:15 - 2:55	8:00 - 2:40	8:15 - 3:15	Thursday
7:45 - 2:35	8:15 - 4:10	9:00 - 3:45	7:45 - 3:10	8:00 - 2:50	8:00 - 2:50	8:15 - 2:55	8:00 - 2:40	8:15 - 3:16	Friday

	324 - Grp II 7:45 - 5:00		0.00	324- Grp I		11 dio - 070	202 Grn	010	3/3-60	000	Carrie	37.)								
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11 - 11	7:45 - 5:00		7:45 - 5:00		7:45 - 5:00		7.10	7:15 - 4:30		7:30-1:30		7:30-1:30			8:40-5:00						
8:15 - 3:30		7.45 5.00	1:15-4:30		1.00-4.00		7-30-4-30		7:30-3:00		8:40-5:00		0.00								
8:15 - 3:30		7:45 - 5:00		7:45 - 5:00		7:45 - 5:00		7:15 - 4:30		1	7:30-4:30		7:30-3:00		7.30 3.00		8:40-5:00				
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	1			7:45 - 3:35				_		0.00	9.00 - 3.50		8.00 - 4.40	0.00		8:00 - 0:00	0.00	0.00	8:00 - 2:50		
		\rightarrow		0.00	8:00 - 3:30		9:00 - 3:50		9:00 - 4:40			8.00 - 0.00	0.00 3.50		8:00 - 2:50	0					
		7:45 - 3:35		0.00	8.00 - 3:30		9:00 - 3:50	0.00 3.50	0.00	9.00 - 4.40	000	0.00	9.00 - 3.50		8:00 - 2:50	0.00					
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