

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 04-0002R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Young, Mitchell, President Dixon, Councilmembers
D'Adamo, Kraft

Introduced and read first time: December 9, 2004

Assigned to: Education, Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Board of School Commissions, Baltimore City Public
School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **The Laurence G. Paquin Middle/Senior High School #457**
3 **– An Urgent Request for Restoration to Model and to Mission**

4 FOR the purpose of urging the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of School Commissioners
5 of the Baltimore City Public School System to immediately restore transferred personnel to
6 prevent Laurence G. Paquin Middle/Senior High School # 457, with its onsite health
7 services, GED, after school program, Little School, and 7 grades – 6th through 12th – from
8 dismantlement as this system's enduring resource for pregnant girls.

9 **WHEREAS**, Laurence G. Paquin Middle/Senior High School was founded in 1966 and has
10 been operated on a staffing model that was established in 1993 and maintained consistently for
11 11 years and successfully implemented until the 2004-2005 school year; and

12 **WHEREAS**, As of July 1, 2004, Paquin's staff of 48 was reduced by 25% to 36, including
13 teachers, teacher's aides, clerical and administrative personnel, and despite this cutback, Paquin,
14 like all schools suffering from similar budget crisis, opened its doors with a resolve to do its best
15 despite diminished resources; and

16 **WHEREAS**, On November 1, 2004, the school was dealt a devastating blow when, with less
17 than a week's notice, 16 more teachers and aides were transferred out of Paquin resulting in a
18 consistent staff-level of 48 has been reduced by 58% between the Spring and Fall semesters, and,
19 according to Dr. Chinnia, teachers have been reduced by 1/3rd and aides by 1/4 from last year
20 until the present; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Paquin's small school/citywide model established by Dr. Walter Amprey in
22 cooperation with Baltimore Health Commissioner Peter Beilenson, and approved by the Board in
23 1993, has until now, ensured the staffing stability to serve as the school system's sole and
24 citywide resource for 6th through 12th grade students who require public education throughout
25 their pregnancies, post-partum recoveries, and child-rearing adjustments; and

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

1 **WHEREAS**, Academic capacity requires Paquin to maintain a quality and continuity of
2 education which enables its students to return successfully to their home schools, including
3 citywide programs, without losing ground or dropping out; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Enrollment rises and falls but has consistently reached 400+ in th 11 years since
5 the Paquin model and its staffing level were adopted and Paquin, as a small school community,
6 caps it enrollment at 500; and

7 **WHEREAS**, On November 2, voters approved a \$34 million School Loan which includes a
8 “Little School” addition to Laurence Paquin School #457 that has conducted 3 age-related
9 programs for infant-to-five year old children of Paquin students; and

10 **WHEREAS**, With the cuts of November 1st, 2 of those 3 programs must be eliminated, only
11 one science teacher is left for the entire middle-through-high-school, and Paquin has lost its
12 prenatal and child development teacher as well, thus compromising Paquin’s public health
13 mission of promoting effective parenting and healthy development within its student population
14 of teen and pre-teen mothers;

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this
16 Body hereby urges the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of School Commissioners of the
17 Baltimore City Public School System to immediately restore transferred personnel to prevent the
18 Laurence G. Paquin Middle/Senior High School #457, with its onsite health services, GED, after
19 school program, Little School, and 7 grades – 6th through 12th – from dismantlement as this
20 system’s enduring resource for pregnant girls.

21 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this Body in unified in its resolve to restore Paquin to
22 its model and its mission to provide a productive future for its students, present and potential, for
23 whom the alternative is dropping-out or falling so far behind as to give up on completing school
24 entirely.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
26 Secretary of the Maryland Department of Education, the Chief Executive Office of the Baltimore
27 City Public Schools, the Board of School Commissioners, the Principal of the Laurence Paquin
28 School, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.