

**For Internal Use Only**



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
WAYS AND MEANS  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*The Committee on Ways and Means (WM)* is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. WM will exercise regular oversight of the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include budget & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022  
10:30 AM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*Legislative Oversight #LO 21-0003*

**Budget Briefing – Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Projection**

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECD)**

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair  
John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*

### **WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)**

Eric Costello, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)**

Mark Conway – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Erick Costello  
Antonio Glover  
Phylicia Porter  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

### **EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)**

Robert Stokes – Chair  
John Bullock  
Zeke Cohen  
Antonio Glover  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)**

Danielle McCray – Chair  
John Bullock  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

### **RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)**

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Mark Conway  
Eric Costello  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*



## LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Ways and Means

Legislative Oversight # LO 21-0003

---

### Budget Briefing – Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

---

#### Purpose:

For the purpose of calling on regular budget oversight hearings for Baltimore City Public Schools to improve transparency and accountability in the allocation of over a billion dollars in public funding for the vital task of educating Baltimore's children.

---

#### Agencies/Organizations Reporting

Bureau of Budget & Management Research	Robert (Bob) Cename
--	---------------------

#### Current Law

Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, Sections 1-5 and 1-6

##### § 1-5. Agencies to provide budget status reports.

###### (a) Reports required.

On or before November 1, February 1, May 1, and August 1 each year, the City agencies so requested shall file quarterly budget status reports with the Budget and Appropriations Committee of the City Council.

###### (b) Contents.

Each report shall contain the information required by the Committee and be in the format requested.

###### (c) Public hearing.

The Committee may hold a public hearing for those agencies not reporting or those showing a projected deficit for the fiscal year.

###### (d) "City agency" defined

The words "City agencies" include the City trustees and all City sponsored and financed nonprofit corporations.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §5.) (Ord. 72-211; Ord. 77-333; Ord. 81-568; Ord. 82-753.)

##### § 1-6. Agencies to provide legislative information.

It shall be the duty of the head of every City department or bureau established by the Baltimore City Charter or by ordinance to provide all technical materials, plans, drawings, and information that are requested by any member or the President of the City Council for the purpose of introducing legislation into the Council.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §6.) (Ord. 76-080.)

## Background

On February 8, 2022, representative(s) from BCPS came before the committee to discuss their second quarter projection for this fiscal year; October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

On May 10, 2022, representative(s) from BCPS will come before the committee to discuss their third quarter projection for this fiscal year; January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022.

Following are notes from the February 8, 2022 hearing

1. The Acting Budget Director, Courtenay Desabaye, gave a PowerPoint presentation. **A copy is on file.**
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
  - Budget Cuts by General Assembly/Governor Hogan
    - Can you talk about these cuts, how it will impact the schools and/or your budget? Answer:
      - Was taken by surprise by this action; blind-sided
      - It is a significant amount of money; \$99 million
      - Appreciates all the support everyone is extended
    - Are there any anticipated negative impact(s) on our young folks? Answer: Yes, but we are waiting on more information; you can't "nip and tuck" around \$99 million dollars. We are awaiting an opinion from the Attorney General; it only affects this school year. We are watching very closely.
    - Where would the \$99 million normally be allocated? Do you know? Is any of these funds allocated to school maintenance? Answer: The cut will impact all schools; the answer is broad for how it will be allocated.
    - Will teachers and staff be affected by the cuts? Such as moved to other locations/schools or let go?
    - How can the Council be more supportive?
  - School Dropouts
    - What are we doing to re-engage these students? What are some of your outreach efforts?
3. Hearing called to recess.

---

## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** A PowerPoint presentation will be given by BCPS during the hearing.

**Information Source(s):** Notes from the February 8, 2022 hearing.

---

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Committee Staff: Marguerite M. Currin  
Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

Date: May 5, 2022