

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0126R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Kraft, Young, Holton, Mitchell,
Rawlings Blake, Reisinger, Clarke, Welch, Harris, Curran

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2006

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

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

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools –**
3 **Family and Community Engagement Policy**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School
5 System, the Director of Parent and Community Development of the Baltimore City Public
6 School System, and the Legislative Liaison of the Baltimore City Board of School
7 Commissioners to present the Board’s “Family and Community Engagement Policy” and the
8 progress made to date in implementing the provisions of the policy that seeks to engage
9 parents, families, and community members in the education of our children by creating a
10 positive bond between the home and the school.

11 **Recitals**

12 On May 25, 2004, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners approved a Family
13 and Community Engagement Policy, the stated purpose being: “ This policy establishes the
14 framework and responsibilities for the implementation of strategies to increase family and
15 community engagement in schools and throughout the system. An effective school-family-
16 community team assures parents, families, and community members the opportunity to be
17 effective collaborators and decision-makers at all levels in support of improved academic
18 performance for all students. The BCPSS will provide support and training for the engagement
19 of all parents, families, and community members. The policy also supports the fulfillment of
20 federal and state parent involvement mandates.”

21 On Saturday, December 3, 2005, the Baltimore City Public School System Office of Parent
22 Involvement and School, Family, Community Connections hosted a “Parent and Community
23 Development Session” for PTA, PTO, PTSA , and other groups to meet with School
24 Improvement Team and Community Representatives to share information about the BCPSS
25 Family and Community Engagement Policy, the Title I Parent Involvement mandates, and the
26 School Improvement Team guidelines, to ensure that all participating entities clearly understood
27 their responsibilities to make certain that the school system has in place an effective parent-
28 community-school paradigm.

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

1 A component of the *Family and Community Engagement Policy* is a requirement that the
2 central office, area office, and school personnel annually assess the implementation of the policy
3 and program. On January 28th, 2006, the Office will reconvene with parent/teacher/community
4 groups to begin that assessment. At that time it will be determined what organizations officially
5 represent schools throughout the system. If, at that time, any school does not have an officially
6 recognized parent/teacher organization, the school administration will take steps to make sure
7 one is formed, in keeping with the policy to “ensure that all families, regardless of income,
8 ethnic background, or language – whose children attend BCPSS schools, share and receive
9 school-to-home and home-to-school communications” concerning the educational welfare of
10 their children.

11 The City Council, by passage of this Resolution, requests the Baltimore City Public School
12 System to share the results of their progress toward implementation of the *Family and*
13 *Community Engagement Policy* following the January 28th meeting.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
15 Body invites the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the
16 Director of Parent and Community Development of the Baltimore City Public School System,
17 and the Legislative Liaison of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to present the
18 Board’s “*Family and Community Engagement Policy*” and the progress made to date in
19 implementing the provisions of the policy that seeks to engage parents, families, and community
20 members in the education of our children by creating a positive bond between the home and the
21 school.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
23 Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City
24 Public School System, the Director of Parent and Community Development, Baltimore City
25 Public School System, the Legislative Liaison of the Baltimore City Board of School
26 Commissioners, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.