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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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# LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Ryan Dorsey  
CHAIR

## HEARING NOTES

25-0043R

*Informational Hearing – Process of Public School Closure*

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**Hearing Date:** 2/19/2026

**Hearing Start Time:** 12:35 PM

**Hearing End Time:** 3:12 PM

**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

**Total Estimated Attendance:** around 20 people

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

- **Chair** John Bullock
  - Sharon Green Middleton
  - Zac Blanchard
  - **Vice Chair** Mark Parker
  - James Torrence
  - Odette Ramos
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### ***MAJOR SPEAKERS***

*(This is NOT an attendance record.)*

- **Angela Alvarez from the Baltimore City Public School System**
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### ***NOTES***

- Chair Bullock opened the hearing by introducing the bill and stating a few remarks about permanent school closures. He stated he wanted to have this hearing because this is an issue across all of Baltimore, his district has been affected as well as many others. This forum is to gain more information about the process of school closures
- Presentation from the Baltimore City Public Schools – Angela Alvarez (senior executive director, office of new initiatives)
- The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments from the committee.
- Vice President Middleton gave brief remarks about the transition of school closures
- Councilman Jones asked a questions in regard of the timeline of school closures. Stating how some timelines are a bit shorter and how the community is largely affected by that.
  - City School response: The timeline has been extended, use to be 30 days, now is 3 months. They have tried announcing early but the challenge with that is that the school community

begins falling enrollment. This timeline allows the school system to collect accurate data and allow notice for families so that they know early enough and can build community/enroll in another school.

- Councilman Blanchard made a comment about the capital investment between the city and other counties within the state. He mentioned that it is important to note how disadvantaged the city is compared to the other counties.
- Councilman Torrence made a comment about the operation within the school systems, mentioning charter schools, and how more black and brown schools need the support.
- Chair Bullock followed and mentioned how running a school is hard and how all operators are not equal, whether it's a traditional public school or charter school. He thanked Councilman Torrence for bringing up this topic.
  - City School Response: Charter schools are unique and bring a certain uniqueness that public schools do not have. (ex. Is Montessori).
- Vice Chair Parker asked what the utilization rate is at the moment.
  - City School response: still at 80%
- Vice Chair Parker asked if City Schools still owns the buildings that were shut down.
  - City School response: city schools does not own the buildings but they have the say on what happens to them. The buildings are own by the city.
- Vice Chair Parker asked if City Schools could describe in more detail how they support families when charter schools close, because many charter schools pull in within the communities that they are in.
  - City Schools Response: have a fair where they bring schools that are nearby to help families build a relationship with that school. The support is somewhat similar to public school closures.
- The Chair moved to public testimony
- City Schools gave brief final remarks sharing how there is a thoughtful overview of the closure of schools. They have increased AP courses, art teachers throughout the city, and others to improve public schools within the city. Increase in graduation and math rates. They have opened 28 schools.
- Moved to final comments
  - Vice President Middleton gave comments about how this was an informational hearing to understand the processing of opening and closing schools throughout the city. Mentioned how a school that was closed in her district was turned into a place for the community.
  - Councilman Blanchard gave comments on having the option for single sex education within the public school system, and how the city is losing that with boys.
  - Vice Chair Parker gave comments on the difference of closures between charter schools and public schools. Is City schools tracking students who have gone through the traditional school closure and students who went through charter school closure?
    - City schools response: no, but it is something they want to do in the future
- Chair Bullock gave closing remarks mentioning how this is an informational hearing and how the council was able to hear not just from the schools and parents, but also from City schools.

**SEE FINAL VOTE RECORD IN BILL FILE**

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<b>Hearing Packet in bill file? -----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>
<b>Attendance Sheet in bill file?-----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>
<b>Vote Record in bill file? -----</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>
<b>Agency reports read? -----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>
<b>Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? -----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>
<b>Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file? -----</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>
<b>Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? -----</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b>

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Notes by: Juliane Jemmott  
Notes Date: 2/19/2026

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