

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 08-0057R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers Young, Henry, Branch, Cole,
D'Adamo, Reisinger, Welch, Kraft, Clarke, Middleton, Curran, Spector

Introduced and read first time: July 21, 2008

Assigned to: Education Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Public School System - Preparedness**
3 **for the 2008 - 2009 School Year**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the CEO and other representatives of the Baltimore City Public
5 System to brief the City Council of school preparedness for the upcoming school year by
6 reporting on principal and teacher vacancies by school and discipline area; the status of
7 facilities management and progress toward completing the Capital Improvement Program;
8 the status of school budgets submitted by individual principals as part of the funding
9 decentralization process; as well as the development of a uniform suspension policy.

10 **Recitals**

11 Students of the Baltimore City Public School System have made significant improvements in
12 last school year's State-wide test scores. This Body lauds these accomplishments and recognize
13 the diligent work of school administrators, teachers, parents and most importantly, of our City
14 students.

15 While we commend the progress that has been made, a new school year is right around the
16 corner. Therefore, the Council in exercising its role of oversight, would like to be briefed on
17 certain outstanding issues. First, the Council would like data on the number of principal and
18 teacher vacancies. Specifically, which schools and disciplines have positions that remain vacant,
19 percentages of teachers without certification, and a presentation of a strategy for retention as
20 well as recruitment of those open vacancies with qualified applicants.

21 Second, the Council requests a report on the progress of all capital improvement projects and
22 their projected completion date. The Council would like to know how ongoing projects will
23 affect the students learning environment.

24 Third, Dr. Alonso has presented an ambitious plan to decentralize the school budget process.
25 The Council requests a report on the progress of that plan and how it has impacted individual
26 schools, principals and the teachers.

27 Lastly, there have been five City Schools that have been designated as "persistently
28 dangerous" by the State. This designation goes to schools with high numbers of suspensions or
29 expulsions for violent offenses over a three-year period. While we know this problem persists

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

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1 widely beyond just those five schools, this Body would like a report on the development of a
2 City-wide uniform suspension policy.

3 These hearings are meant to insure that the City Schools are ready and fully operational on
4 the first day of school. The City is extraordinarily proud of its students for the major strides that
5 have been made. Absolute preparedness will allow us to give the City students the tools they
6 need to build upon that success for this upcoming school year.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the CEO
8 and other representatives of the Baltimore City Public School System brief the Council on school
9 preparedness for the upcoming school year by reporting on principal and teacher vacancies by
10 school and discipline area; the status of facilities management and progress toward completing
11 the Capital Improvement Program; the status of school budgets submitted by individual
12 principals as part of the funding decentralization process; as well as the development of a
13 uniform suspension policy.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
15 CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
16 Council.