

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

Resolution: 21-0053R

Informational Hearing – School Lunches

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth
Chaired by: Robert Stokes, Sr.

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021
Time (Beginning): 5:00 PM
Time (Ending): 6:10 PM
Location: Virtual "WebEx" Meeting
Total Attendance: Approximately 45

Committee Members in Attendance:

Robert Stokes, Sr. James Torrence
John Bullock Sharon Green Middleton
Antonio Glover Phylcia Porter

Per Chairman Stokes - Zeke Cohen – Excused

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Agency reports read? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [ ] yes [ ] no [X] n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? [ ] yes [ ] no [X] n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? [X] yes [ ] no [ ] n/a
Motioned by: Councilmember Porter
Seconded by: Councilmember Glover
Final Vote: Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Sonja Santelises, CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)
• Elizabeth Marchetta, Baltimore City Public Schools, Food and Nutrition Division
• Hilary Ruley, Law Department
• Colin Smith, Student/Senior
• Maha Saleh, Student

- Audrey Akumkperik, Student
  - Monica Lepenta, Bit Center
  - Micha'el Carthen, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Student
  - Call-in Speaker, Unidentified (via Molly Carr Swatech)
  - Molly Carr Swatech, Teacher
- 

### Major Issues Discussed

1. Councilwoman Ramos, primary sponsor of the Resolution gave opening remarks, "This is a very important issue for students. During the hearing we will hear about their issues; students should have a voice in what is being served and/or what is included in school lunches."
2. The CEO for BCPS gave opening remarks stating, "I agree, this is an important issue." Some other highlights from her conversation were:
  - Talked about the number of meals served in BCPS
  - Thanked Councilwoman Ramos for introducing the Resolution and for given her the opportunity to a part of the conversation
  - COVID have placed significant challenges on food services
  - Vacancies have also affected food services
3. The representative from BCPS' Food and Nutrition Division gave a PowerPoint Presentation. **A copy is in the bill file**
4. Three (3) students and a representative from the Bit Center testified. Some highlights from their conversations included:
  - Need better school lunches
  - A better lunch will give students the energy needed to them through the day
  - School lunches for some low-income students is often the only meal they get during the day
  - Have two (2) major issues
    - The amount of food thrown away and not consumed
    - Food is not tasty
  - We/students need a voice in the menu/type food being served
  - Students need future choices
  - Students are looking for things they love to eat
  - There is a commercial kitchen(s) in the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century buildings; no one cooks in it/them!
  - There is over 530,000 tons or more of food wasted
  - We need to look at other systems to see what is working!
  - Supports Resolution
5. The committee/council members asked questions, made comments and/or asked for clarifications. Some highlights of same were:
  - Comment: As a former teacher I can say, "there is always more room for nutrition
  - Applauded students for coming forth
  - Supports Resolution
  - Comment: USDA Nutrition Requirement – The students believe nutrition is there, but it is not enough; need more varieties
  - Question: Is there an alternative choice for those students who are latex intolerant?

- Suggestion/Comment: Have any looked into composting since a lot of food is wasted?
6. Three (3) other speakers gave public testimony. Some highlights of same were:
- A student stated he does not eat school lunches
  - Need a school store to purchase food and snacks
  - Vending machines are needed too
  - Students need fresh food, often don't get it; vegetables are not fresh
  - Quality of food is of concern
  - Need different options
  - Must eat lunch within 20 minutes – is of concern
  - Per the Teacher who spoke:
    - Highlighted opportunities needed for students
      - Their voices need to be heard
      - Students need to be better served
      - Need to have better choices available
      - Student voices are needed in decision-making, and
      - Changing desires of students is not easy but a change is possible
7. Councilwoman Ramos gave closing remarks, "I've learned a lot at this hearing. She thanked students for participating and looks forward to following up with the school system."
8. Vote taken. Hearing concluded.

**Further Study**

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe.

**Committee Vote:**

R. Stokes, Sr. ....	Yea
J. Bullock .....	<b>Out of Chamber</b>
Z. Cohen .....	Yea
A. Glover .....	<b>Excused</b>
S. Green Middleton.....	Yea
P. Porter .....	Yea
J. Torrence .....	Yea

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: October 22, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: 10-21-21

RESOLUTION #: 21-0053R

RESOLUTION TITLE: Informational Hearing - School Lunches

MOTION BY: Porter      SECONDED BY: Glover

- FAVORABLE                       FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
 UNFAVORABLE                       WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Stokes, Sr., Robert - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bullock, John	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	out <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Stamley</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohen, Zeke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>excused</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glover, Antonio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Porter, Phylcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torrence, James	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

CHAIRPERSON: Robert Stokes, Sr. Robert Stokes

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite M. Currin Initials: M.M.C.



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: <b>Resolution</b> – Informational Hearing – School Lunches	Resolution #21-0053R
Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth	Chair: Robert Stokes, Sr.
Date: <b>Thursday, October 21, 2021</b>	Time: 5:00 PM
Location: <b>WebEx Meeting</b>	

<b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>				What is your position on this bill?	Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<b><u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u></b>			<b>Testify</b>	For	Against	Yes	No
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email					
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		<i>See hearing Notes</i>					

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Education Workforce and Youth

---

Thursday, October 21, 2021

5:00 PM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor: Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2333 434 5036, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?  
MTID=ee4cc75843d80b049c79d9592350b428c](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee4cc75843d80b049c79d9592350b428c)

---

21-0053R  
CHARM TV 25

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present** 6 - Robert Stokes Sr., John T. Bullock, Antonio Glover, Sharon Green Middleton, Phylcia Porter, and James Torrence  
**Excused** 1 - Zeke Cohen

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 21-0053R

##### **Informational Hearing - School Lunches**

For the purpose of inviting Baltimore City Public School System students, the Chief Executive Office of the Baltimore City Public School System, and any relevant Baltimore City Public School System staff to discuss with the Council their ideas and concerns about public school lunches.

**Sponsors:** Odette Ramos, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Phylcia Porter, Zeke Cohen, Antonio Glover, Robert Stokes, Sr.

**A motion was made by member Porter, seconded by member Glover, that Resolution 21-0053R be recommended favorable. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Stokes Sr., Glover, Middleton, Porter, and Torrence

**Out-Chamber:** 1 - Bullock

#### ADJOURNMENT