

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 10-0222R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Branch, Middleton, Henry, Curran, Holton, Stokes,
Spector, Welch, Reisinger, D'Adamo, Cole, President Young, Councilmember Kraft

Introduced and read first time: September 20, 2010

Assigned to: Education Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System, Department of
Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Funding the Baltimore City Public Schools' Comprehensive**
3 **Educational Facilities Master Plan**

4 FOR the purpose of calling for a hearing to discuss deficient City school facilities, find solutions
5 to modernize all City school buildings, and develop a funding strategy to raise the \$2.8
6 billion needed to implement the school system's Facilities Master Plan.

7 **WHEREAS**, improving our public education system is essential to create equity, opportunity,
8 and economic stability in Baltimore City; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore's Educational Code states that "the public schools of the City of
10 Baltimore are intended to promote the general welfare of its citizens;" and

11 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City public school students deserve to attend school in new or newly-
12 renovated school buildings that support their intellectual, emotional, physical, and social growth;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, the City Schools Comprehensive Educational Facilities Master Plan of 2010
15 ("Facilities Master Plan") reports that about 70% of the City's public school buildings are in
16 poor condition, and therefore inadequate for learning in the 21st century; and

17 **WHEREAS**, numerous studies have repeatedly shown a strong relationship between deficient
18 school buildings and both lower student academic achievement and attendance, as well as lower
19 teacher retention; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the most important facility factors that contribute to academic success, such as
21 science labs and adequate heating and cooling systems, are severely lacking in Baltimore City
22 school buildings; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the health and safety of children, teachers, and other school staff is threatened by
24 harmful materials in the schools and deficiencies such as poor indoor air quality due to a lack of
25 adequate ventilation systems; and

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, students need access to public school buildings with up-to-date science labs,
2 library and media centers, computer labs, art studios, physical education facilities, community
3 space, and classrooms equipped with multi-media supports to compete in the 21st century; and

4 **WHEREAS**, modernized and inviting school buildings in every neighborhood will greatly
5 enhance the revitalization of City neighborhoods by encouraging businesses to locate in the City
6 and families to live in the City and enroll their children in City schools; and

7 **WHEREAS**, updating heating and cooling systems, installing energy-efficient windows and
8 doors, and use of other energy saving systems is a good investment that will save money on
9 maintenance, utility bills, and future capital spending; and

10 **WHEREAS**, current capital funding from local, state, and federal sources is wholly inadequate
11 to fund the \$2.8 billion Baltimore City Public Schools’ Facilities Master Plan; and

12 **WHEREAS**, implementing the school system’s Facilities Master Plan will require a firm
13 commitment from the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a number of school districts, cities, and states have found innovative financing
15 solutions or new revenue sources to comprehensively modernize their K-12 school
16 infrastructure;

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
18 Council will hold a hearing to discuss deficient City school facilities and solutions to modernize
19 all City school buildings.

20 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Baltimore will collaborate with
21 City and State officials, and Baltimore City Public Schools, to develop a funding strategy to raise
22 the \$2.8 billion needed to implement the school system’s Facilities Master Plan.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Baltimore will carefully examine all new
24 and existing revenue sources to assist in the funding of the Facilities Master Plan.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the CEO of
26 Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor, the Director of Finance, and the Mayor’s Legislative
27 Liaison to the City Council.