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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Legislative Oversight – LO #22-0021

Baltimore City Public Schools

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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John Bullock – Vice Chair
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Antonio Glover
Odette Ramos
Robert Stokes

Staff: Jennifer Coates (410-396-1260)

WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)

Eric Costello, Chair
Krisferfer Burnett
Ryan Dorsey
Danielle McCray
Sharon Green Middleton
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Robert Stokes

Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)

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OPERATIONS (SGO)

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Eric Costello
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Staff: Samuel Johnson (410-396-1091)

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH(EWY)

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Sharon Green Middleton
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence

Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

(HET)

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John Bullock
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Phylicia Porter
James Torrence

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Staff: Matthew Peters (410-396-1268)

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

(OVERSIGHT)

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair
Krisferfer Burnett
Mark Conway
Eric Costello
Sharon Green Middleton
Odette Ramos
James Torrence

Staff: Richard Krummerich (410-396-1266)



LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

LO 22-0021

Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

Purpose:

For the purpose of holding periodic hearings to review education and performance data for BCPS and to monitor the impact of the Pandemic on the progress of the Blueprint for Success.

Agencies/Organizations Reporting

Baltimore City Public Schools

Background

On February 17, 2022, the committee held its **first** hearing. Following are notes from the hearing.

Major Speakers

Sonja B. Santelises, CEO Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)

Alison Perkins-Cohen, Baltimore City Public Schools

Tina Hike-Hubbard, Baltimore City Public Schools

John Davis, Baltimore City Public Schools

Joan Dabrowski, Baltimore City Public Schools

Major Issues Discussed

1. CEO Santelises introduced her team/staff and gave opening remarks. Some of the areas to be discussed today will be:
 - Impact of Pandemic
 - Recovery Plan (Reconnect, Restore, Reimage)
 - Forthcoming changes relating to the internet
2. Several representatives from the BCPS participated in presenting a PowerPoint Presentation.

A copy is on file.



3. The committee members asked questions, made comments, and etc. Some highlighted topics of discussion were:
- Connecting Families
 - What conversations are you having with state departments to keep families and communities connected?
 - Building families, community relationships and engagement, talk about this.
 - Patterson High School – Reading Levels (Low)
 - Can you talk about this? **Answers: There are high profiles/numbers of immigrants attending Patterson High. About 40% of the students attending Patterson are English learning and new to this country. We must watch closely how data and profiles are used (this is of concern); weaponizing data!**
 - Stakeholder Engagement (Slide Pertaining to Same)
 - I noticed that the City Council is not listed as a stakeholder!
 - We are very much a part of the stakeholders
 - Please include the Council on the list
 - We are definitely partnering with BCPS and the communities
 - Can you speak to this?
 - Improvised Neighborhoods
 - Trauma, drugs, COVID, and etc.
 - We need data on these neighborhoods! How are you connecting to them academically?
 - Technology/Computers/Etc.
 - Have you connected with the Mayor’s Office regarding connectivity efforts?
 - Tutoring
 - You stated that there are approximately 12,000 students participating in your tutoring programs! How are you doing corrective learning and/or tutoring for students who are not in any of the programs?
 - How is tutoring implemented and accounted for? How are we ensuring it is happening? How are you measuring the effectiveness of tutoring? How are you ensuring long-term effectiveness?
 - Trauma/Mental Health
 - There are a lot of shootings occurring in the city! We have a full-blown mental health crisis; worse than I ever seen! This is a sense of emergency!
 - Is looking forward to working with you on this issue!
 - Restorative Practices
 - Did not see any restorative practices in your Presentation! How are you positioning this type of work?
 - **Requested by Councilman Cohen: Submit an update on the implementation of restorative practices used citywide**
 - Communication/Outreach
 - We need to communicate better, we can’t continue to do the same thing the same way, each community have different needs.
 - Student Leadership

- We need to embrace student leadership, more are needed!
- How are you supporting our school leaders with software programs?
- Senate Bill 157 – Supports 2 student board members
 - Can you explain some of the opposition to this bill? **Some answers were: We are proposing amendments to the bill; students should not be allowed to vote on some matters and/or issues at hand. However, we are creating more opportunities to hear student voices.**

4. Hearing recessed.

5. On May 19, 2022 the committee will hold its second (2nd) hearing.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. See **yellow highlights** in “Major Issues Discussed Section” above.

Marguerite Murray Currin

Committee Staff: Marguerite Murray Currin

Date: May 16, 2022

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