

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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HEARING NOTES

Legislative Oversight: LO23-0035

Baltimore City Public Schools – Math Scores

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

Chaired by: Robert Stokes, Sr.

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Time (Beginning): 5:00 PM

Time (Ending): 6:45 PM

Location: Council Chambers

Total Attendance: Approximately 25 In-Person
Approximately 15 Virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Robert Stokes, Sr.	James Torrence
John Bullock	Sharon Green Middleton
Zeke Cohen	Phylicia Porter

Antonio Glover – Excused Absence

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Sonja Santelises, CEO Baltimore City Public School System
- Kwame' Jamal Kenyatta-Bey, Board of School Commissioners



Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairman Stokes gave opening remarks and stated, "These low scores did not start last night! The goal is to figure out how to get our students back on track."
2. CEO Santelises gave opening remarks. Some remarks included:
 - We appreciate the opportunity to be here to share information and to provide context not available.
 - Every jurisdiction in Maryland have failing math scores! The state of Maryland is struggling!
 - Grade Eight (8) math scores across the State were low
 - I thought it was important to share information regarding math scores around the State overall; we as a State (State of Maryland) have math issues.
 - She talked about:
 - some of the things BCPS(s) are doing to address the math issue moving forward
 - the Leadership changes in the BCPS
 - The SY23-24 Math Improvement Plan

A PowerPoint Presentation was shown and discussed; *a copy is on file*

3. The committee members asked questions, made comments, and etc. Some highlighted topics of discussion were
 - Family Engagement
 - *Can you talk more about family engagement?*
 - *How are you helping parents help tutor their children?*
 - *What are you doing to build the bridge with families and the communities?*
 - Pandemic
 - *Catching up from the effects of the Pandemic; getting students back on track! Talk about this, about what you are doing!*
 - Teachers' Training
 - *What are you doing in this area?*
 - *Are students still divided into tracks?*
 - *Are there any changes to address the real-life situations for getting students to learn?*
 - Comments
 - *I believe now, every student has access to a computer and/or technology!*
 - *Comments regarding educators being under duress and stress over the past years*
 - Quality Assurance Perspective
 - *How are you addressing the "immediate needs" that some students may need?*
 - *Learning Gap: What is the process for holding a student(s) back if needed?*
 - Chronic absenteeism
 - *Comments regarding chronic absenteeism*
 - *Chronic absenteeism should be a concern for everyone! And, is an exponential threat for learning!*
 - *Are you tracking chronic absenteeism?*
 - Students/Kids
 - *Kids need meaningful things to do in the Summer!*
 - *Can you talk about your thoughts regarding four (4) versus five (5) school days?*

- Concerns:
 - *Spikes in violence during the Summer months; hopefully this issue will be resolved!*
 - Tutoring
 - *What does "growth" look like with tutoring?*
 - *Requested by member Torrence: Provide the results from actual tutoring. Provide the analysis by grade level.*
 - *Learning Gap: What is the process for holding a student(s) back if needed?*
 - Board of School Commissioners
 - *What role are the Board of School Commissioners playing in chronic absenteeism?*
 - *The public want to know what their roles are!*
 - *The representative for the Board of School Commissioners talked about some of the duties of the Board members*
 - Classroom Size
 - *What are you doing to reduce the size of classrooms?*
 - *Do you know how many seats are being offered for Summer school learning?*
 - Math in General
 - *Math can be complicated!*
 - *There are many different types of learners*
 - *We must keep the courses excited for inclusiveness and for learning!*
 - Positions
 - *Requested by Chairman Stokes: Provide a list for both the tutors and for the mental health specialist you are hiring.*
4. The chairman gave closing remarks and stated, "Our children need to be able to do math! We need to do this right!
 5. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe. See "**red and yellow highlights**" above.

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite Murray Currin, Committee Staff

Date: May 2, 2023

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Legislative Oversight – Baltimore City Public Schools – Math Scores	LO #23-0035
Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth	Chair: Robert Stokes, Sr.
Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023	Time: 5:00 PM
Location: WebEx Meeting	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

What is your
position on this
bill?

Lobbyist:
Are you
registered in
the City?*

CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY



Testify

For

Against

Yes

No

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melissa Broome - BCPS							
Santelises, Sonja - BCPS							
Kwame' Kenyatta-Bey, Bd of School Commissioners							

*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, April 27, 2023

5:00 PM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, City Hall, 4th Floor, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2341 824 3979, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=m2695e157d66b73be135c893d09b2403e)
MTID=m2695e157d66b73be135c893d09b2403e

Legislative Oversight: LO23-0035
CHARM TV 25

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

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

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

LO23-0035 **Baltimore City Public Schools - Math Scores**
For the purpose of representatives from the BCPS to come before the Committee to discuss the students' math scores.
Hearing called to recess.

ADJOURNMENT