



HEARING NOTES

Mayor and City Council Resolution: 23-0383

Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

Committee: Ways and Means
Chaired by: Councilman Eric T. Costello
Hearing Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023 – Budget Overview
Time (Beginning): 3:15 PM
Time (Ending): 3:45 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 20 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello
Danielle McCray
Sharon Green Middleton

Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer – excused absence

Hearing Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 – Budget Hearing
Time (Beginning): 6:30 PM
Time (Ending): 9:30 PM
Location: Council Chambers
Total Attendance: Approximately 55 in-person
Approximately 10 virtually

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric T. Costello Kristerfer Burnett
Robert Stokes, Sr. Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Sharon Green Middleton Daniel McCray

Bill Synopsis in the file? yes no n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? yes no n/a
Agency reports read? yes no n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? yes no n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? yes no n/a

Evidence of notification to property owners? yes no n/a
 Final vote taken at this hearing? yes no n/a

Major Speakers
(This is not an attendance record.)

- Courtenay Desabaye, Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS)
 - Alison Perkins-Cohen, Baltimore City Public Schools
 - Sonja Santelises, Baltimore City Public Schools
-

Major Issues Discussed

1. A representative from the Baltimore City Public School System gave an overview for the proposed budget on May 25, 2023. *A copy of the presentation is on file.*
2. Committee/councilmember asked questions, made comments and etc. Some highlights of discussion and/or concern were:
 - Vacancies – unfilled teacher’s positions
 - What are you doing to fill these vacancies?
 - Requested by Councilmember Torrence: Submit the following information:
 - School by school the total of unused “vacancy” funds
 - To include how those funds were utilized
 - Submit by September 2023
 - Employees – the Paraprofessional
 - Concerned about the amount of wages/salaries paid to them
 - Requested by Councilmember Torrence: Prepare an analysis for “how to increase their salaries/wages”
 - Availability of physical activities for students – is of concern
 - Comment: Physical activities creates a “better student”
 - Some discussion regarding the Medicare formula
3. *The May 25th hearing was called to recess and reconvened on June 1, 2022.* Following are the notes from the June 1, 2023 hearing.
4. A PowerPoint presentation was given by BCPS. *A copy of the presentation is on file*
5. Committee/councilmember asked questions, made comments and etc. Some highlights of same were:

-
- Teachers being burned-out – is of concern
 - Staff morale – what are you doing to enhance morale?
 - This is of concern – Per Councilmember Torrence; would like to me with school representatives to discuss this issue
 - Requested by Councilmember Torrence, provide the following information and/or plan for:
 - List of paraprofessional positions along with their salaries
 - Wholeness Funds (Youth Fund Evaluation)

- Kirwan positions (a list for all locations)
- Finding stable leadership for special needs programs
- **Provide by September 1, 2023**
- Mental Health Support
 - What are you doing to address this issue? Talk about this!
 - Requested by Councilmember Stokes: provide a list of the schools who addresses trauma
- Absenteeism and Truancy
 - Talk about this, where are you today?
 - What is the plan to address same?
- Retirement
 - The rate of people who are retiring is of concern
- Apprenticeship Programs
 - These programs are needed as well as the need to partnership with the State of Maryland
 - Would like to see a dialogue begin to set-up same
 - An immediate need to fill jobs with people who live in the city! What are the current apprenticeship programs available?
- Murals
 - Is a process in place for placing murals on school buildings?
 - Per Councilmember Middleton: Would like a copy of the policy pertaining to same
- Special Education
 - How many students are a part of Special Education?
 - Concern: Families having to sue in order to get special education services
- Social Workers
 - Where are we with these positions? Are they all filled? Answer: Will research and submit the vacancy rate for social works; but we still have vacancies
- Kirwan Plan
 - Requested by Councilmember Porter: After the expiration of the Kirwan plan, provide the timeline and/or plan for addressing the adequacy gap (the ESSER Plan)
 - Who is the Blueprint Coordinator for Kirwan? Answer: Sandy Jacobs
 - Walk me through the Kirwan Blueprint
 - When did you find out funding would be \$392 million instead of \$373 million?
 - Requested by Chairman Costello: Provide by COB June 6, 2023 a spreadsheet depicting the timeline for same.
- Comments
 - The importance of families knowing what their rights are (we need a better way to aide parents)
- Requested by Councilmember Ramos: provide the following information
 - Post graduate certification rate for schools
 - An update for the relocation of the Westside Skill Center
- Early Childhood Education
 - Talked about the importance of same
 - Universal Pre-Kindergarten
 - Where is BCPS with this and what is the timeline for same?

- Sport Activities
 - Does the \$2 million increase tie into \$50/per pupil?
 - Questions surrounding sport activities offered in schools
 - What is the total budget allocation for high school sports?
 - Youth Sports – Recreation and Parks – have you completed all of the MOU’s?
 - From a partnership perspective, how do you connect with the Department of Recreation and Parks?
- Conflict Resolution
 - There is nothing reflected in the budget regarding same!
 - What are you going to do to address this issue? (Intentional Conflict Resolutions in Schools)?
 - Some discussion/comments regarding violence in schools
- Businesses Serving Students during School Hours – is of concern
 - Concern: Quality of food served in school
 - Talk about the funding use to enhance the quality of food that is served in schools
 - What schools have culinary programs?
 - Comments regarding having actual kitchens in schools like some of the other jurisdictions
- Squeegee Efforts
 - What is your role in same and how can it be developed?
- Data Base/Data Collection
 - Is it effective?
- Is there any tutoring for our E-sol Students?
- Rank in Funding
 - Where does Baltimore City rank in funding its schools?
 - There other factors that should be considered when ranking, such as what the city pays per pupil!
 - Don’t believe the ranking is accurate; should be based on every pupil!

6. Hearing recessed.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe. See above requests “highlighted in red and yellow.”

Marguerite M. Currin

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: June 5, 2023

cc: Bill File
OCS Electronic File



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Mayor & City Council Resolution – Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 – BUDGET OVERVIEW - BCPS	Resolution #: 23-0383
Committee: Ways and Means	Chair: Eric T. Costello
Date: Thursday, May 25, 2023	Time: 2:01 PM
Location: Council Chambers	

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ATTENDANCE ONLY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
			For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓
<div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 10px;">Courtney Desabayo - BCPS</div> <div style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Alison Perkins-Cohen - BCPS</div>						

*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



Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

Subject: Mayor & City Council Resolution – Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 – **BUDGET HEARING - BCPS** **Resolution #: 23-0383**

Committee: Ways and Means **Chair:** Eric T. Costello

Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 PM

Location: Council Chambers

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ATTENDANCE ONLY

First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email		What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*	
				For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHRIS	DOHERTY	200 East North Avenue CDoherty@bcps.k12.md.us		✓			
Kim	TRUCCARETTI						
Sonyia	Santelises	BCPS					

*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

Ways and Means

Thursday, May 25, 2023

2:01 PM/Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2349 801 3058, Password:
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?MTID=mb9c39759021f66d376be3a532b32dead)
MTID=mb9c39759021f66d376be3a532b32dead

23-0383: Operating Budget for Board of School Commissioners FY24 - BCPSS

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

- Present** 3 - Eric T. Costello, Danielle N. McCray, and Sharon Green Middleton
- Excused** 1 - Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
- Absent** 3 - Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, and Robert Stokes Sr.

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

23-0383

Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

For the purpose of approving the budget estimated to be needed for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for operating programs during Fiscal 2024; providing for certification of the approved budget to the State Superintendent of Schools; and providing for a special effective date.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing recessed; to reconvene on Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Budget Overview

ADJOURNMENT

City of Baltimore

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Ways and Means

Thursday, June 1, 2023

6:30 PM

Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, Phone:

+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2336 682 4564, Password:

Public, Link: <https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/j.php?>

MTID=m22427e696f86ddd6cc32bc216f59cfc3

23-0383: Operating Budget for Baltimore City School Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 6 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

Absent 1 - Ryan Dorsey

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

23-0383

Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

For the purpose of approving the budget estimated to be needed for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for operating programs during Fiscal 2024; providing for certification of the approved budget to the State Superintendent of Schools; and providing for a special effective date.

Sponsors: City Council President (Administration)

Hearing was recessed; to reconvene at a later date.

DAY THREE (3) - BUDGET HEARING

Baltimore City Public Schools

ADJOURNMENT