

Introduced by: President Young, <sup>Henry</sup> ~~Conville~~, <sup>Schleifer</sup>, <sup>Kutt</sup>, <sup>Dunnitt</sup> <sup>DORSEY</sup>

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference <sup>Bulluck</sup>, <sup>Middleton</sup>, <sup>Stokes</sup>, <sup>Speed</sup>, <sup>Reisinger</sup> Date: April 27, 2018 <sup>Clarke</sup> <sup>Pinstoff</sup>

Referred to: **BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS** Committee <sup>Chen</sup>

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 18-0082R

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

**Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force**

FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials in various colors: black, blue, red, and purple. Legible names include: Edward L. Henry, Robert Stokes, and Margaret Lake.]*

**\*\*The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

**Agencies**

<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore City Public School System	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Works
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Development Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> City Solicitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Recreation and Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Comptroller's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Audits	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Department
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Department
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of General Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Employment Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Housing and Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Human Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Information Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of the Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Police Department
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Boards and Commissions**

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Estimates	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Control Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Commissioner
<input type="checkbox"/> Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Parking Authority Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Employees' Retirement System	<input type="checkbox"/> Wage Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 18-0082R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Costello, Schleifer, Scott, Burnett, Dorsey,  
Bullock, Middleton, Stokes, Sneed, Reisinger, Cohen, Pinkett, Henry, Clarke  
Introduced and read first time: April 30, 2018  
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable  
Adopted: May 14, 2018

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force**

FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

**Recitals**

According to recent press reports, a 22 member Baltimore City Public Schools task force has been meeting since last year to study the declining enrollment in the City's schools and ways to reverse this trend. Reportedly, the group's meetings have not been open to the public and the most direct stakeholders in our schools – parents and students – have only 1 representative each, less than 10% of the group's membership.

Declining enrollment is a serious concern for the school system, and it is appropriate and heartening to hear that BCPS recognizes the need for a group focused on this important issue. However, it is questionable whether a group can really understand and address a problem caused by the collective decisions of thousands of parents and students without meaningful participation and input from parents and students. Also, the Latinx population is the fastest growing segment that comprises overall student enrollment and is not properly represented.

A successful school system is an absolute necessity for Baltimore City. Declining enrollment is both a cause and a symptom of wider problems that our schools are experiencing. As such, it is a complicated issue that needs to be effectively and transparently considered and dealt with. The BCPS task force may in fact be a useful part of a broader effort to reverse declining enrollment; but on an issue this significant it is important that the public have a greater understanding of the task force's role, goals, and how it's work will advance the community engagement needed to get more children into our school system. A closed door policy simply doesn't allow the public to get answers to those questions.

Ultimately, parents and students will determine whether enrollment in City schools climbs or declines. They need to know that their input is important and will be sought by BCPS, and they need to know everything that BCPS is doing about the enrollment problem. A public hearing before the City Council on the BCPS enrollment task force, and more broadly how BCPS plans

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
Strike-out indicates matter stricken by amendment.

**Council Bill 18-0082R**

1 to engage parents and students to address declining enrollment, would serve to provide the public  
2 with the answers they need and deserve.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
4 Council calls on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before it to  
5 discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a  
6 broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

7 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
8 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTING RECORD

DATE: May 8, 2018

RESOLUTION #: 18-0082R

BILL TITLE: Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force

MOTION BY: Scott      SECONDED BY: Middleton

- FAVORABLE                       FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS  
 UNFAVORABLE                       WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Costello, Eric - Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pinkett, Leon - Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, Bill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middleton, Sharon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott, Brandon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, Issac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sneed, Shannon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

CHAIRPERSON: *[Signature]*

COMMITTEE STAFF: Marguerite Murray, Initials: M.M.C.  
*Marguerite Murray Curran*



# City of Baltimore

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Budget and Appropriations Committee

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Tuesday, May 8, 2018

10:00 AM

Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall

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18-0082R  
CHARM TV 25

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

- Present** 6 - Member Eric T. Costello, Member Leon F. Pinkett III, Member Sharon Green Middleton, Member Brandon M. Scott, Member Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Member Shannon Sneed
- Absent** 1 - Member Bill Henry

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 18-0082R

**Investigative Hearing - Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force**  
For the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

**Sponsors:** President Young, Eric T. Costello, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Brandon M. Scott, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, John T. Bullock, Sharon Green Middleton, Robert Stokes, Sr., Shannon Sneed, Edward Reisinger, Zeke Cohen, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Bill Henry, Mary Pat Clarke

A motion was made by Member Scott, seconded by Member Middleton, that City Council Resolution 18-0082R be recommended favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 6 - Member Costello, Member Pinkett III, Member Middleton, Member Scott, Member "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Member Sneed
- Absent:** 1 - Member Henry

#### ADJOURNMENT

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**





CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, 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

Council Resolution: 18-0082R

Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force

Committee: Budget and Appropriations
Chaired By: Councilmember Eric T. Costello (in part)
Chaired By: Councilmember Brandon Scott (in part)

Hearing Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Time (Beginning): 10:05 AM
Time (Ending): 11:15 AM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Chamber
Total Attendance: Approximately 50

Committee Members in Attendance:

Eric Costello Sharon Green Middleton
Brandon Scott Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer
Leon Pinkett Sharon Sneed

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
Hearing televised 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 Scott
Seconded by: Councilmember Middleton
Final Vote: Favorable

Major Speakers
(This is not an attendance record.)

- Sonja Santelises, CEO Baltimore City Public Schools System (BCPSS)
Trish Garcia Pilla, Task Force Member
Khalilah Harris, Coalition of Black Leaders in Education

## Major Issues Discussed

1. President Young gave opening remarks. He stated he was disappointed that a member of the city council was not on the task force. Also stating that he had heard from a number of individuals regarding advisory groups for the Baltimore City Public Schools System. "I know you have a tough job and I support you but I could not support the task force without a representative from our council."
2. CEO Santelises gave a PowerPoint presentation. **A copy of the handout is in the bill file.** This writing also received a "corrected copy" of the presentation after the hearing concluded. **A copy of same is also in the bill file.**
3. After the presentation was concluded President Young and other committee/council members stated concerns, made comments and asked CEO Santelises questions. Some highlights of same were:
  - How many members on the Task Force currently have children attending the BCPSS?
  - How many BCPS teachers have children currently enrolled in the BCPSS? – **Also See Further Study Below**
  - **Per CEO Santelises:** Some teachers do send their children and grandchildren to attend the BCPSS; especially when they feel that the schools are of high quality and are in a safe environment.
  - Per President Young – "All BCPS should be quality schools and whatever the Council can do to help let us know!"
  - How do you ensure that the voices of our young folks are being heard?
  - Topic: **Blueprint** (Wave and Introduction)
    - How much outreach was shared with the teachers, parents, and etc.?
    - **Per CEO Santelises:** Will be having Blueprint events in the future
  - Topic: Door Knocking Campaign
    - Comments and discussion surrounding same - **Also See Further Study Below**
    - Please provide the Council with advance notice for the door knocking campaign
  - What are the enrollment numbers? **Also See Further Study Below**
  - Are you including the faith-based community in your focus groups?
  - New initiative – "Officer Friendly Program" - the Police Department will soon restart this program; we hope that the BCPSS would partner with the Police Department in this initiative!
  - Do you track the students who are no longer in school and where he/she are going?
  - A committee member stated, "Yes, its' true that the Council sometimes invites themselves on committees and/or task forces to discuss important issues in the community! As a result, it has been effective!"
    - **Per CEO Santelises:** I will be glad to include a member of the Council on the task force.
  - Vouchers given by our Governor for private schools: Have these vouchers affected enrollment?
  - How many high school students do we have?

- What is the current dropout rate?
  - Several comments and concerns made regarding declining enrollment and the dropout rate
  - Have you thought about starting a program to deal with violence?
  - Are there any efforts in place to encourage homeownership?
  - Are there any efforts or partnerships in place to encourage teachers to get homeownership in communities where he/she teaches?
  - How many students signed up for the community college program? And, how many qualified? **Answer: 515 students**
4. CEO Santelises talked briefly about pipeline crime and how same connects to some students. She also believes that parents should be able to send their children to the school of their desire. And that the BCPSS is competitive and the importance of the BCPSS remaining competitive.
5. The committee received testimony from two (2) speakers:
- 1<sup>st</sup> Speaker opposed the Resolution. **(A copy of her written testimony is in the bill file)** Some highlights of her conversation included:
    - Talked about comments made by President Young that was printed in an article of the Baltimore Sun newspaper
    - Talked about her perspective on “what good leaders are or should be”
    - What is needed is “cohesiveness”
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker gave several comments. **(A copy of her written testimony is in the bill file)** Some highlights of her conversation included:
    - Today is Teachers’ Appreciation Day – I would hope you took time to thank one!
    - Believes there is a lack of efficiency around our leaders about what is truly important for our children
    - The very first questions should be: “Who is not at the table”
    - Believes the umbrella should be expanded for who sits at the table!
    - Gave some suggestions of what is needed to improve the city’s school system
    - “I believe in our CEO, in her commitment and in her staff!”
    - Our CEO can’t do it alone!
6. Hearing concluded.

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### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe. CEO Santelises is to research and submit to the committee the following information:

1. How many teachers have children currently enrolled in BCPSS
  2. The overview report for the Door Knocking Campaign
  3. What the enrollment numbers are for the BCPSS
-

**Committee Vote:**

E. Costello: ..... **Yea**  
L. Pinkett: ..... **Yea**  
S. Middleton: ..... **Yea**  
I. Schleifer: ..... **Yea**  
S. Sneed: ..... **Yea**  
B. Scott: ..... **Yea**  
B. Henry: ..... **Absent**

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*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: May 10, 2018

cc: Bill File  
OCS Chrono File

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON ENROLLMENT TASKFORCE

May 8, 2018

Submitted By: Khalilah M. Harris, JD, EdD

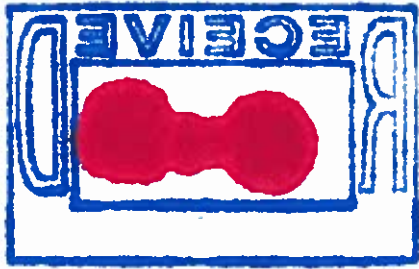
Founding Co-Chair, Coalition of Black Leaders in Education

Resident in Councilmatic District 14, Legislative District 43



- Good afternoon, I'm Khalilah Harris and I'm honored to be here to discuss this critical issue on Teacher Appreciation Day.
- I am a proud parent of three daughters in Baltimore City ages 15, 13 and 8.
- All decision-making about our students is policy-making. Therefore, whenever external people are engaged in the process we should include a cross-section of community including people who are directly impacted by decisions being made. The first question should always be who's not at the table, because we know it's harder to change decisions and ideas already formed than it is to create a vision together.
- For too long decisions about our students and City have been made and presented to families and community instead of co-created by and with them. Developers, philanthropists, and the corporate sector have had access to many backroom conversations before the people most impacted. Likewise, some grassroots orgs have been used as a checkbox or substitute for broad, authentic and deep engagement of families and community. The question becomes, who are we looking to enroll and who are we okay with

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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON ENROLLMENT TASKFORCE

May 8, 2018

Submitted By: Khalilah M. Harris, JD, EdD

Founding Co-Chair, Coalition of Black Leaders in Education

Resident in Councilmatic District 14, Legislative District 43

losing? Who do we want to have a right to this City and who do we see as merely a burden to be addressed. As we know, all of our skinfolk ain't our kinfolk.

- With all of that said, I believe in this CEO, her staff and their commitment to shifting mindset and the status quo on the way business has been done, for the way education should be done. The Baltimore City Public School System cannot stand alone in developing strategies to support expanding opportunity for ALL of Baltimore City's students regardless of genetic code or zip code. Quality schools don't exist without strong healthy neighborhoods.
- It cannot be the case that public outcry is the only time our elected officials are seeking to partner with BCPSS to build the best school system in our nation, in the same way it cannot be the case that public outcry is the only time our school district officials expands the umbrella of who sits at the table for decision-making. It shouldn't wait until our children are choking in hot schools because there's no air or freezing in buildings in the winter that are too cold.

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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEARING ON ENROLLMENT TASKFORCE**

**May 8, 2018**

**Submitted By: Khalilah M. Harris, JD, EdD**

**Founding Co-Chair, Coalition of Black Leaders in Education**

**Resident in Councilmatic District 14, Legislative District 43**

- **Absent the accountability of an elected school board, this Council and our Mayor are in fact responsible for developing and making clear an economic development strategy that incorporates City Schools.**
- **As a taxpayer I should know what the plan is for economic development including not only schools, but jobs, housing and transportation.**
- **If we want people to return to City Schools and more broadly to this City, we need to allow families and neighbors who see the greatness of the City to serve as willing ambassadors for what's great and what's improving.**



**Currin, Marguerite**

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**From:** K Harris <khalilahharris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2018 12:36 PM  
**Subject:** City Council Testimony  
**Attachments:** Enrollment Hearing Testimony.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find my testimony from this morning's City Council hearing on development of the District's enrollment task force attached.

Thank you kindly,  
Khalilah

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Khalilah Harris  
~ @Ed2BeFree

"I freed a thousand slaves, if I could have convinced more they were slaves I could have freed thousands more..." - Harriet Tubman



I came here today to speak about two aspects of what I feel like is very wrong about President Young bringing this resolution and hearing to fruition. When I read the article in the Sun Paper regarding this hearing I wrote to President Young about how his wording in the article was culturally insensitive towards me and the Latino Community. I am on this Enrollment Task Force and I am Latina. I spent an hour talking on the phone the following morning with the President's Chief of Staff about what exactly the President meant. Then the resolution was sent to me and continued to employ the same vague, culturally insensitive terminology. To simply say that this task force does not properly represent the Latino Community when I sit on it completely dismisses my presence on the task force and because I wrote to have this corrected and you didn't correct it for me negates what you are supposedly trying to do here to protect the voice of the Latino Community. You cannot say you are concerned about our representation out of one side of your mouth while insulting a member of the Latino Community out the other side of your mouth.

Secondly, as the chair of the Parent and Community Advisory Board for Baltimore City Schools, I do my best to keep my ears open to what parents are saying and knowing what they care about. I spend quite a bit of time on social media sites reading what thousands of parents post regularly and I can tell you that very, very few parents are talking about this and other education advocates I've spoken to think exactly what I think and that is this hearing is an overreaction and is seemingly just political grandstanding. As a parent, I want to know that the people that you have called down here today are working every minute of their day tending to the issues of city schools. This hearing takes them away from that work for something that you didn't even take the time to talk about with respect and sensitivity. The issues that have been pointed out could have been a phone call or short meeting with the results published. To

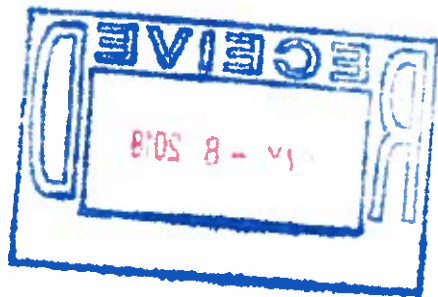


me all this wasted time equals my tax dollars being wasted. Dollars I would much rather see spent working for the students of this city.

Finally, all this hubbub over one internal working group the CEO formed has been counter productive to our Enrollment issue. It just highlights the disfunction of this city and its leaders hence causing folks to continue to want run from it. Good leaders show that when we all are striving for the same outcome we work like a cohesive team instead of fighting amongst ourselves and pointing fingers at who is doing what wrong. Baltimore is well known for its inefficiency because of infighting. It's time to change that. I implore all of the leaders here today to start working together as a cohesive, efficient team for the sake of our most important citizens, the students of Baltimore City Schools.

Submitted  
by  
Trish Garcia Pilla

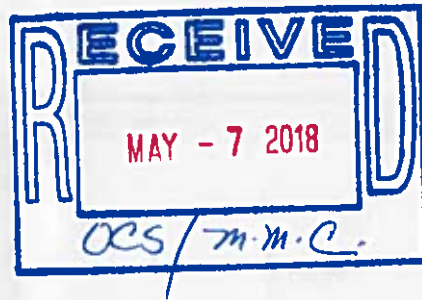






May 7, 2018

Council President Bernard Young  
Councilman Eric Costello  
100 Holliday St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201



**Re: Baltimore City Schools Enrollment Task Force**

“You—parents, family and community members— are essential to the education of our children; we need to treat you like real partners...[W]e will engage organizations that are trusted in the community to help you stay connected to your children’s school.”

– Former Baltimore City Schools CEO, Dr. Andres Alonso, in his first communication, March 6, 2008<sup>1</sup>

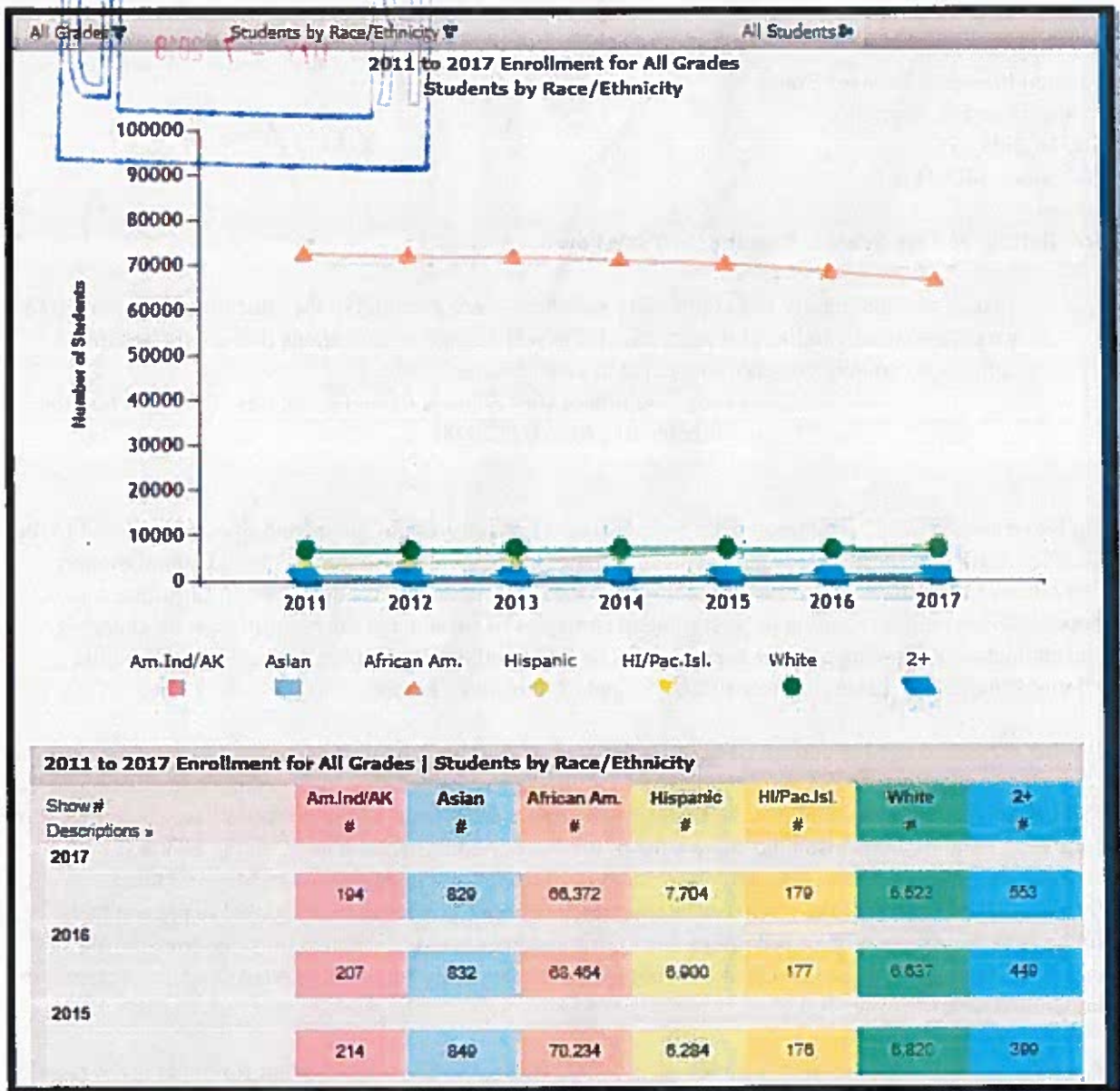
On November 21, 2017, Baltimore City School Board Liaison Joseph Straaik and Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff J.D. Merrill made a presentation to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners Operations Committee on enrollment. Included in that presentation was notice that an Enrollment Task Force (ETF) would be forming to “recommend strategies to sustain and grow enrollment by engaging stakeholders and drawing on their expertise.”<sup>2</sup> The ETF would include three workgroups: (1) public relations/marketing; (2) enrollment strategies; and (3) customer service.

Neither the Board nor the current CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools made any further public mention of the ETF. As an active and engaged parent, I inquired as to the selection process and composition of the ETF in April 2018. I was told that the ETF was “internal” and that its findings would likely be released in June 2018. The Board Liaison did share a list of the 22 individuals chosen to sit on the ETF and that “[i]nitial members were suggested by the CEO, Board Chair, and members of the Mayor’s team.”<sup>3</sup> Despite the assertion that the work was internal, members of the ETF were scheduled to present their findings to the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers (ABAG) – though only for dues-paying members – on April 24, 2018.<sup>4</sup> Upon learning of the scheduled presentation to ABAG, I filed a complaint under the Open Meetings Act.<sup>5</sup>

Apart from issues of transparency governed by state statute, the ETF in its current form: (1) is not racially or socioeconomically representative of Baltimore City Public School students and (2) is duplicating past work – including work performed by paid contractors – which delays the implementation of policies and practices to ameliorate the stark disparities within and among Baltimore City Public Schools.

**I. REPRESENTATION AND THE ETF**

At present, the ETF has 22 members. There is but one parent representative. There are no organizational representatives from the Hispanic/Latinx community despite the fact that Hispanic/Latinx enrollment is the only demographic group with rising enrollment; Hispanic/Latinx enrollment now outstrips white enrollment citywide.



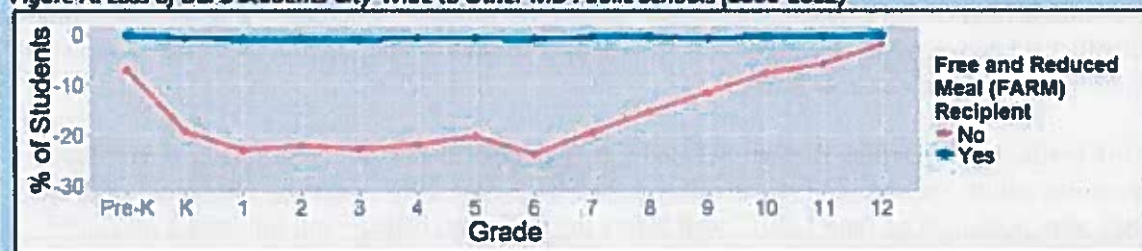
Declining enrollment is not uniform across demographic groups. Population loss among city school students was more acute among higher income/non-Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs) students. Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance noted that the City was losing higher income students – particularly during the transition to middle school – in 2015.<sup>6</sup> (City Schools no longer collects FARMs data, having moved to community eligibility.)

### What's School Got to do with Migration?

Given that public education plays an important role in the decision to move for households with school-aged children, it is important to know at what point households might be choosing to leave Baltimore because of experiences or perceptions about public schools. Using Baltimore City Public School (BCPS) attendance records between 2006 and 2012, exit codes assigned to students when they leave a school were analyzed to assess patterns by grade and by school. The codes include whether the student entered from or exited to a public or private school and whether the student entered from or exited to a school in the city or elsewhere in the state.

Because a student leaving the public school system does not by itself mean that the household moved, the analysis in this section focuses on the exit code "Other MD Public School" as a close proxy for a move outside Baltimore. Figure 6 displays aggregate student information by grade and by Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) status. The majority (71%) of all BCPS students are FARM recipients; however, there is a very small (near zero) percentage loss of FARM recipient students to Maryland public schools outside Baltimore City. For the 29% of students who are non-FARM recipients, the data suggest a steady exit to Maryland public schools outside Baltimore City at the rate of about 20%, peaking at 24% for sixth graders, which is the start of middle school. This finding confirms overall trends found in the *Grow Baltimore Brief #1*—loss of student-age children and loss of middle- and upper-income households from Baltimore City.

Figure A: Loss of BCPS Students City-Wide to Other MD Public Schools (2006-2012)



Source: Baltimore City Public Schools

As there was no public process for selection of the members of the ETF, their collective and individual familiarity with demographic data and past analyses of enrollment is unknown. Additionally, it is unclear how many members are city residents with children who are (or were previously) enrolled in public school.

Although the ETF purports to be concerned with customer service, it fails to include representation from a wide cross-section of agencies that most certainly influence student enrollment. For example, there are no members from transportation. This is a serious shortcoming given that nearly 40% of students citywide use the Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA) or a cab to reach school.<sup>7</sup> Before any success or failure of customer service at their school, students and parents must contend with late and delayed buses from the MTA, which has a low on-time performance rate (only 60% of buses arrive on time).<sup>8</sup> Enrollment decisions do not begin and end at the school door.

All too often, the School Board engages in efforts, including contracting for services, well before it engages parents who are the ultimate arbiters of whether to enroll their child. Rather than engage parents from the first, at the foundational stage where policy is inchoate, we are invited to comment on reports or

findings only at a second or third stage of development. **Parents must be engaged as partners from inception, not when the school system decides it is most convenient. Asking parents to choose from a narrow, predetermined range of options already vetted by leadership is not engagement or partnership.**

## **II. DELAYING CHANGE. AGAIN.**

Most alarming is that Baltimore City Public Schools is convening **yet another** task force or workgroup to address a longstanding problem (for a relatively brief historical discussion of declining enrollment amid integration and “white flight,” see Edward Berkowitz’s 1997 article [\*Baltimore’s Public Schools in a Time of Transition\*](#).) The ETF is centered on marketing and customer service despite evidence that far more substantive reforms are long overdue.

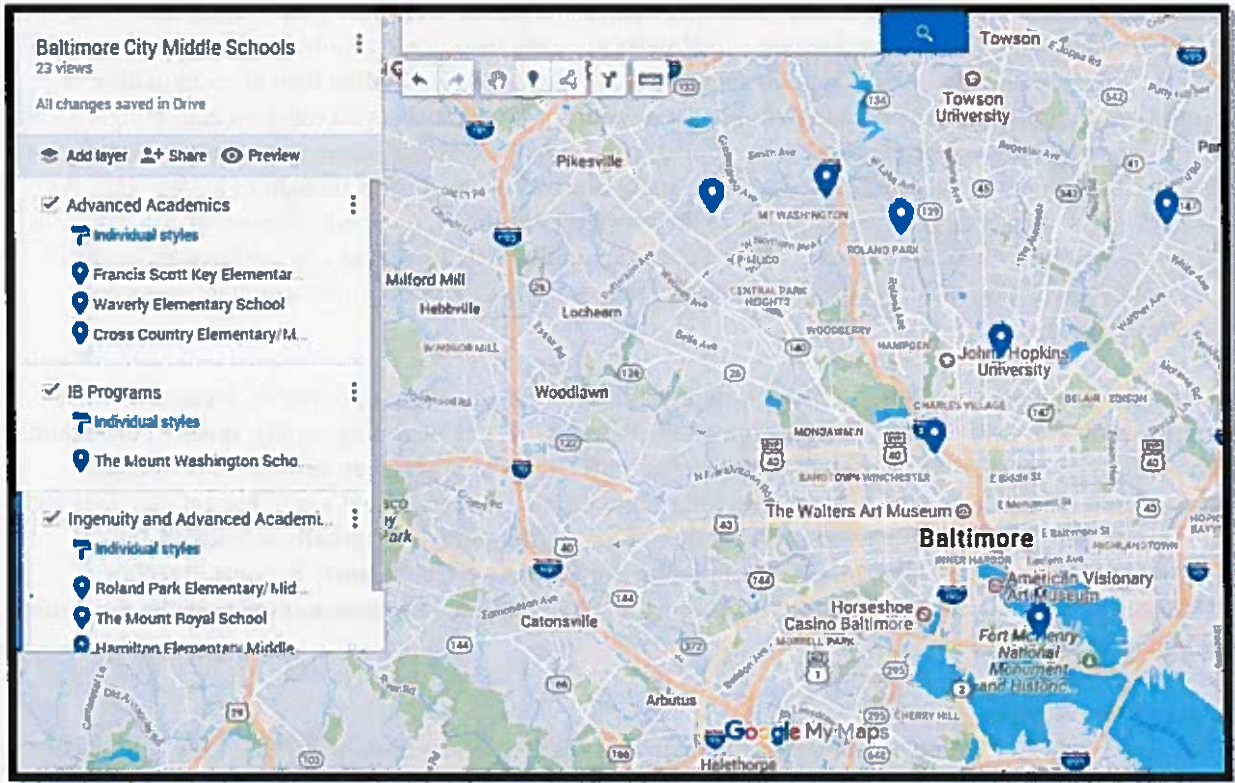
In 2015, Baltimore City Public Schools released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to for a rezoning feasibility analysis.<sup>9</sup> The contract was awarded to DeJong Richter (now Cooperative Strategies) on September 8, 2015 for \$248,700 with work due one year later. **RFP Addendum #2 included the requirement that the contract monitor “ensure that the Comprehensive Feasibility Study reflects input from an Advisory Committee regarding neighborhood and community dynamics, as well as potential policy impacts.” That never happened.** Once again, Baltimore City Public Schools decided to conduct work behind closed doors until advocates pressed for promised meetings. Community meetings were finally held between March and May 2017, well after the entire study should have been completed.<sup>10</sup> No Advisory Committee was ever formed.

The work performed by DeJong Richter included extensive reporting on questions related to enrollment, programming, equity, etc. asked of stakeholders at the March-May 2017 meetings. The results of those meetings were published on June 1, 2017 well before the ETF was created<sup>11</sup> and followed a May 2017 report projecting the loss of another 2,112 students over the next 10 years.<sup>12</sup>

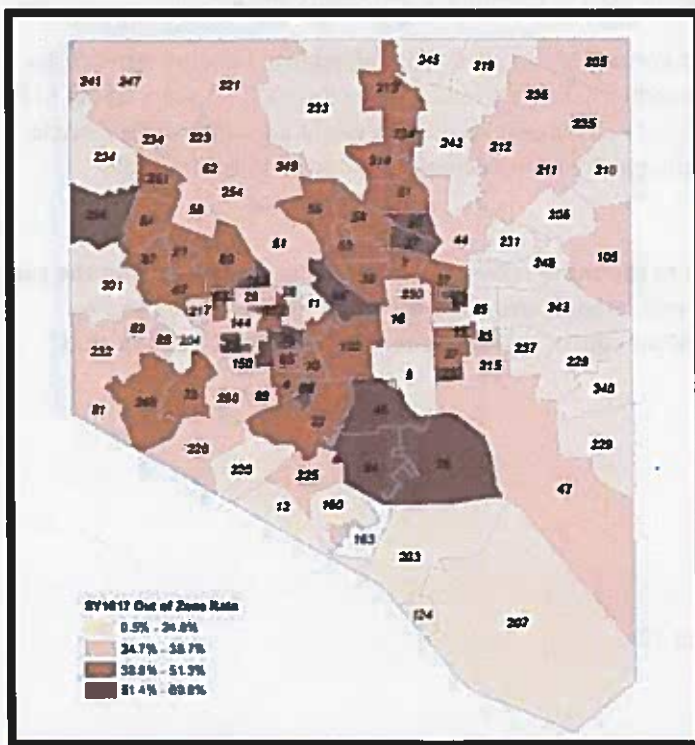
Participants in the community meetings were asked three questions regarding enrollment and their responses focused heavily on equity with comments such as:<sup>13</sup>

- “Increase programming at all schools to make all of them desirable“
- “Ensure all schools are high quality so that students have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential”
- “Improve resources of neighboring under-enrolled schools”
- “No matter where you live, what your education is, how much money you make, you have access to the same services as others”

Despite these comments, the 2015 Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance report (above), and City School’s own recommendation to “[expand] high-quality middle school programming, to improve equity of access and promote City Schools as a strong middle grades option among families who may consider leaving the district after 5th grade,”<sup>14</sup> this is the current location of all middle grades Advanced Academics, International Baccalaureate, and Ingenuity programs.



Desirable, high-quality programs with entry criteria are heavily concentrated in the northern half of the city in neighborhoods with higher per capita income. These schools attract significant out-of-zone enrollment, as do schools in the “White L,” though not exclusively.



If one looks at enrollment by building rather than citywide, one gets the sense not of an enrollment crisis but rather a system marked by incredible unevenness. For example, school 251 in the upper left is Callaway Elementary. Over one-third of its students are out-of-zone enrollees and the building is over capacity (105-108% occupied). School 84 in the bottom center is Thomas Johnson (TJ). TJ has more than 50% of enrollees from out-of-zone and is over-enrolled at over 110%+ occupancy. Baltimore has many schools that are at or over capacity and others that are seriously under-enrolled.<sup>15</sup>

Rather than a serious quantitative and qualitative analysis of factors that draw people away from their neighborhood school and to another that would build upon the over quarter million dollars we already spent with DeJong Richter, City Schools focusing on customer service. Rather than an examination of out-of-zone enrollment policies and their impact on equity, City Schools is focusing on marketing. (As an aside, much of out-of-zone enrollment is via principal discretion. I would guess that results in uneven out-of-zone enrollment by race and socioeconomic status and accrual to schools thought of as desirable. As with charters, elementary students must have their own transportation to an out-of-zone school. This in a city where more than 50% of households in eight Community Statistical Areas do not have access to a personal vehicle. City schools does not, as far as I am aware, track out-of-zone enrollment by race or socioeconomic status.)

I am sure Baltimore City Public Schools will argue it can walk and chew gum; that is, it can simultaneously assemble the ETF and work on the thorny problems of zoning, equity, quality curriculum, etc. However, doing so demands that central office staff – smaller now, given several years of budget reductions – and stakeholders must request information again, and again, and again. Except that does not appear so. **The Board has delayed the adoption of an equity policy – originally scheduled for adoption in May 2018 – indefinitely.<sup>16</sup> Similarly, the Baltimore Community Schools Steering Committee has not met in many months despite a 2019 deadline to produce standards for the policy adopted in 2016.<sup>17</sup>**

#### **Same Players, Same Results?**

The Goldseker Foundation and Enterprise Foundation – both represented on the ETF – have had school enrollment initiatives. A 2004 report from Enterprise Foundation<sup>18</sup> focused on their efforts with Kelson Elementary and William Pinderhughes. Sadly, a mere six years later, Kelson closed and Pinderhughes moved into its building on Gold St. Six years after that, the School Board slated Pinderhughes for closure; the school was saved only through the diligent work of community advocates and parents.<sup>19</sup>

Goldseker created its Neighborhood School Partnership in 2010. Then President Timothy Armbruster said, “We intentionally started in neighborhoods where we wouldn’t have to spend 20 years trying to fix the public schools.”<sup>20</sup> While starting in relatively stable neighborhoods might make managerial sense, it further exacerbates inequity by driving funding away from unenrolled schools in less desirable neighborhoods.

**Why are we inviting the same nonprofits to the same table to discuss the same issue using the same words (marketing, customer service, narrative) and expecting different results? Why are we privileging this effort over the adoption of an equity policy? Where is the Task Force on that?**

Sincerely,



Melissa Schober  
Parent and Baltimore City Resident, District 12

<sup>1</sup> <http://pelp.fas.harvard.edu/files/hbs-test/files/pel074.pdf?m=1442517667>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcpss/Board.nsf/files/AT3SCC71B623/\\$file/CitySchools.EnrollmentUpdate.Boar d.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcpss/Board.nsf/files/AT3SCC71B623/$file/CitySchools.EnrollmentUpdate.Boar d.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Email communication from Joseph Straaik to Melissa Schober, April 18, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.abagrantmakers.org/event/id/1086536/Focus-on-City-Schools-Enrollment-Task-Force.htm>

<sup>5</sup> The Maryland Public Information Act Manual cautions that a public body's formal delegation of duties to an informally-created committee "comes very close to making that group a public body for that purpose, *see* 9 OMCB Opinions 83, 85 (2013).

<sup>6</sup> <https://bniajfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Brief-3-May-2015.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/8784/PDF/2017CEFMP/20170701-CEFMP-AppK.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://mta.maryland.gov/mta-performance-improvement>

<sup>9</sup>

<https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bs0/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=MDBCS31020646&external=true&parentUrl=bi d>

<sup>10</sup>

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:5qrPJJMvH0J:www.baltimorecityschools.org/domain/107 95+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/10795/20170920- RezoningFeasibilityStudy-CommunityMeetingResultsReport.pdf>

<sup>12</sup>

[http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/10795/20170510\\_Baltimore\\_City\\_P ublic\\_Schools\\_Background\\_Report.pdf](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/10795/20170510_Baltimore_City_P ublic_Schools_Background_Report.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/10795/20170925- MeetingPresentation.pdf>

<sup>14</sup>

<http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/8784/PDF/2017CEFMP/20170701- CEFMP-Ch3.pdf>

<sup>15</sup>

<http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/cms/lib/MD01001351/Centricity/Domain/8784/PDF/2017CEFMP/20170701- CEFMP-AppL.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcpss/Board.nsf/files/AWKRWE6FF7B3/\\$file/2017- 18%20Policy%20Matrix%20-%20Updated%2002.16.2018.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcpss/Board.nsf/files/AWKRWE6FF7B3/$file/2017- 18%20Policy%20Matrix%20-%20Updated%2002.16.2018.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcpss/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AHBLGP52C637> (Full disclosure: I was the parent representative on the Community Schools Steering Committee until my daughter suffered a stroke in May 2017. Following rehabilitation, we moved her to a new school, which was not a community school, and I offered my resignation so another parent could serve.)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/download?fid=1428&nid=3474>

<sup>19</sup> Pinderhughes students were initially slated to attend either Gilmore or Eutaw Marshburn. There appears to be no rhyme or reason for what is closed: Pinderhughes is housed in the Kelson Building. Kelson was built in 1974 and as per the [2012 Jacobs Report](#) its 10 year replacement cost was \$9.5M. Pinderhughes' attendance rate for elementary was 93.4% and middle was 92.8%. It had 46.2% advanced professional teachers and 14.1% of classes were not taught by highly qualified teachers. By contrast, Gilmore was built in 1962 and had a 10 year replacement cost of \$16.2M and the attendance rate was 84% (and trending steeply down). Gilmore had 40% advanced qualified professional teachers and 17.6% of classes were not taught by highly qualified teachers. Eutaw Marshburn (EM) was built in 1966 and a 10 year replacement cost of \$20M and the attendance rate was 95.7%. EM had 40% advanced qualified professional teachers and 7.2% of classes were not taught by highly qualified teachers. Why would the Board move to close Pinderhughes, which is newer, has lower replacement costs, more highly qualified teachers and better attendance in favor of routing kids to Gilmore? And why would you close an elementary/middle to send kids to an elementary-only when research says that K-8 helps with attendance, transition to middle school, and dropout prevention? And why would you close a community school – Pinderhughes has a community school coordinator via Humanim/Elev8 – after adopting a citywide policy to encourage community schools in favor of sending children to a school without a community school coordinator?





## **Currin, Marguerite**

---

**From:** Broome, Melissa C <MCBroome@bcps.k12.md.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2018 8:18 PM  
**To:** Davis, Lester  
**Cc:** Currin, Marguerite  
**Subject:** PPT Attached - Enrollment Task Force - Correct Board List  
**Attachments:** Enrollment Task Force - City Council Hearing 5.8.17.pdf

Dear Lester,

The PPT that I sent you this morning inadvertently contained an outdated Board list (on the final slide). I am resubmitting our presentation – for City Council records – with the most current Board list included. I apologize for this error.

Thanks so much,  
Melissa

--

Melissa Broome  
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs  
Baltimore City Public Schools  
443-525-3038 (mobile)  
443-642-4020 (office)  
[MCBroome@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:MCBroome@bcps.k12.md.us)

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# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1

## Enrollment Task Force

Presentation to the Baltimore City Council

May 8, 2018

Cheryl A. Casciani  
Chair, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises  
CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools

# Executive Summary

- Declining enrollment represents the most serious challenge faced by City Schools.
- **Numerous efforts are underway to reverse the downward trend.**
- The Enrollment Task Force convened last fall by the CEO represents one of many efforts.



# Baltimore City's Population Decline

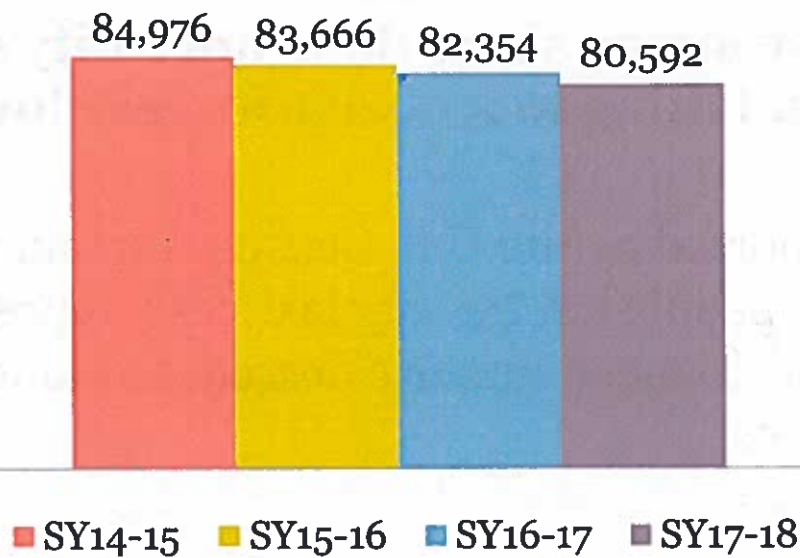
3

## **Federal estimates show Baltimore City's overall population falling to a near 100-year low**

- As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 5,300 people left the city last year, representing the second-highest numeric decrease among U.S. counties.
- Previously, Baltimore's population fell by more than 6,000 people in the 12 months that ended July 2016.

# City Schools Official Enrollment

4



	SY1415	SY1516	SY1617	SY1718	1 yr change	3 yr change
<b>Official Enrollment</b>	84,976	83,666	82,354	80,592	-1,762	-4,384

Note: Official enrollment includes students in grades Pre-K through 12 and excludes students in non-public schools.

**BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# Financial Recovery Plan

5

As part of the “Bridge to Kirwan” legislation that passed in 2017, City Schools was charged with developing a Financial Recovery Plan to address the school system’s structural budget deficit and the actions that have been taken to reduce the gap between ongoing revenues and expenditures, including:



**Initiatives and efforts to retain students and attract new students to the school system**

## Initial Enrollment Efforts

6



- Summer Door-Knocking Campaign
- Blueprint for Success
- Promoting our highly successful pre-k and kindergarten programs



# Multi-Faceted Enrollment Strategy

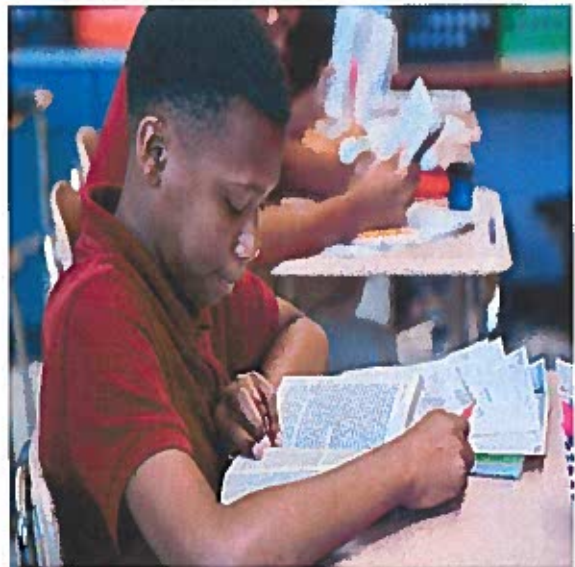
7

- Middle School Programming
- Programming to Meet Parent and Student Demand
- Showcasing New & Renovated 21<sup>st</sup> Century Buildings
- Strategically Staffing School Leaders
- Using Data to Identify Areas for Enrollment Growth
- Improving Customer Service Across the District
- Expanding programs for gifted and advanced learners and for students learning English
- **Enrollment Task Force**

## Enrollment Task Force

8

- Recommend strategies to sustain and grow enrollment by engaging diverse group of stakeholders and drawing on their expertise.
- Convene workgroups and charge them to investigate, research, develop, and recommend for implementation strategies for increasing enrollment in City Schools.



# Workgroups & Focus Groups

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**Public Relations / Marketing:** *How can we improve public perception of City Schools? What messages resonate with our multiple audiences? How can we best reach each audience?*

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This includes partners like the Baltimore Ravens' entire Guest Experience Team whose experiences can give us a jump start.



## Next Steps

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City Schools welcomes and encourages the active involvement of the entire City Schools community and city as a whole.

***For more information on how to participate, please call us at:  
410-545-1870***



# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

12

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Peter Kannam, *Vice-Chair*  
Muriel Berkeley  
Michelle Harris Bondima  
Linda Chinnia  
Andrew "Andy" Frank  
Martha James-Hassan  
Ronald McFadden  
Johnette A. Richardson  
Ashley Peña, *Student Commissioner*  
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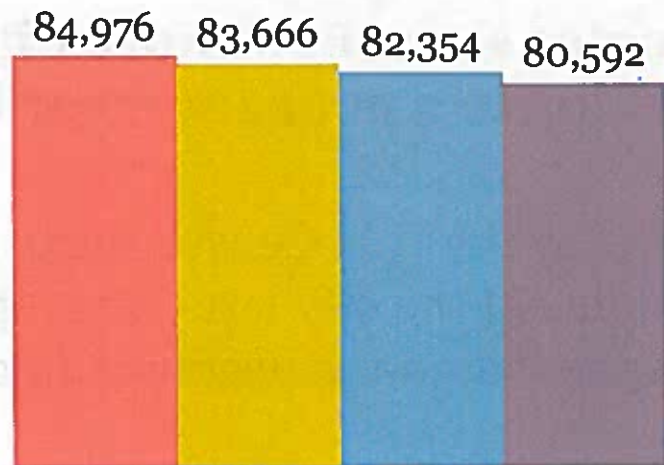
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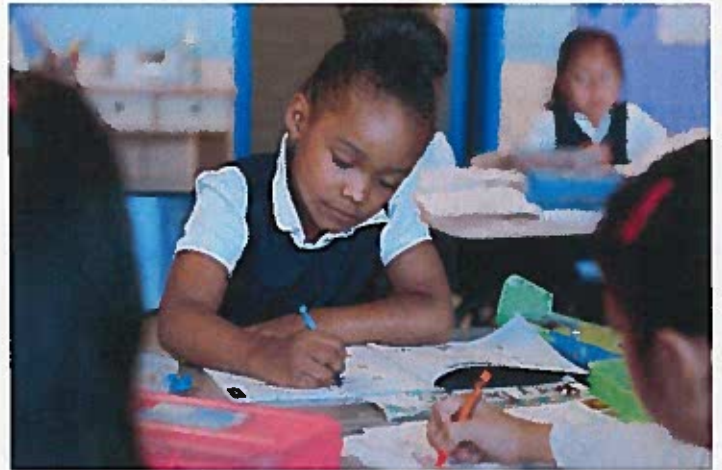
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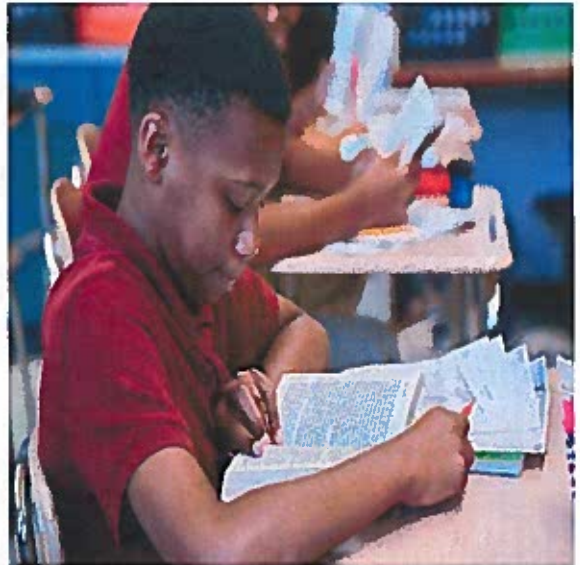
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Tammy L. Turner, Esq., *Chief Legal Officer*  
John Walker, *Interim Chief Financial Officer*



# CITY OF BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

**Committee:** Budget and Appropriations      **Chairperson:** The Honorable Eric T. Costello  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018      **Time:** 10:00 AM      **Place:** Clarence "Du" Burns Chambers  
**Subject:** Resolution - Investigative Hearing - Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force      **CC Bill Number:** 18-0082R

**PLEASE PRINT**

**IF YOU WANT TO TESTIFY PLEASE CHECK HERE**

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ST. #	ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	ZIP	EMAIL ADDRESS	WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THIS BILL?		LOBBYIST: ARE YOU REGISTERED IN THE CITY (*)
						FOR	AGAINST	
John	Doe	100	North Charles Street	21202	Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ingh	Garcia Pilla	841	W. University Pkwy	21210	tpillae@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda	Chinnia					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Johanna	Richardson					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melissa	Brown					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alison	Parker Gohn					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sonya	Santibies					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kheitah	Harris	3606	Volando Rd	21218	Khaulaharris@gmail.com	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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(\*) 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. REGISTRATION IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION AND FORMS, CALL OR WRITE: BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ETHICS, C/O DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE, 626 CITY HALL, BALTIMORE, MD 21202. TEL: 410-396-4730; FAX: 410-396-8483.

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**Thank you for using the Better Business Bureau's Online Complaint System.**

Your complaint has been assigned case # 36142066.

Correspondence regarding this complaint will be emailed to : marguerite.murray@verizon.net

Please print a copy of this for your records.

Filed on : April 17 2018

Filed by :

Marguerite Currin  
3656 Forest Garden Avenue  
Gwynn Oak MD 21207

Filed against :

Top Nails  
8061 Liberty Rd  
Windsor Mill MD 21244-2966

**Complaint Description:**

Inadequate services and inadequate response for fingernails services provided and paid for on April 14, 2018. On Saturday, April 14, 2018 I visited the named business to get fingernail services and a pedicure. I paid \$45 for the services and provided \$9 in tips. The next day, Sunday, April 15, 2018 I returned to the business because the gel on one of my fingernails had chipped. The services provided was suppose to last up to three weeks. The same employee who provided service on April 14th repaired my nail on April 15th however, the very next morning, Monday, April 16th when I awoke, the gel on the same nail had chipped again. I when to work and called the business several times throughout the day only to get the answer machine (I must had called at least 10 times). So after work I visited the business again and attempted to explain my dissatisfaction with the services by asking to speak with the manager and/or owner. I was told he/she was not there. I told the employees why I returned and the employee who provided the services to me was there serving a customer. I told the other two (2) employees that I wanted my nail repaired but did not want the same employee to provide the service because I had already been to her twice and she did not repair my nail properly and that I preferred that someone else repair it. The other two employees did not have any customers at the time; neither one took the courtesy to even look at my nail to see what needed to be repaired and I was told that I had to wait for the same employee that had provided the previous services or come back when the manager was in the store because if one of them repaired my nail they would charge me for the services. I told the employees that I had reported to work at 8 AM on this day and it was now approximately 7 PM and that I had come straight from work and that this was the third time coming (three days straight) and to try to consider my time and gas used. Still neither employee looked at my fingernail and told me that I had to do one of 3 things: wait until the employee finish with her customer and have her attempt to do my fingernail for the 3rd time; leave and come back and speak to the manager (note: no one answered the phone so how was I to reach out to the Manager) or three paid one of them to repair my nail.

**Your Desired Resolution:**

Depending on the length of time that elapse from April 14th: I prefer that I walk in and get my fingernail repaired instantly or have the full services repeated due to the lapse of time. Although I am not demanding an apology one is truly in order. This business has very bad customer service skills and should consider the time and inconveniences placed on their customers whenever they render inadequate services.

This case will be reviewed by a complaint specialist at the Better Business Bureau, and then forwarded to the business for their response. It is our policy to allow the business 30 working days to respond to your complaint. You will be notified when the business has responded.

What would you like to do next?

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[Become a more savvy consumer](#)

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- BBB Scam Tracker
- File an Auto Warranty Complaint

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- Become Accredited
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# City of Baltimore

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

## Meeting Agenda - Final

### Budget and Appropriations Committee

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Tuesday, May 8, 2018

10:00 AM

Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall

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18-0082R

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

##### 18-0082R

Investigative Hearing - Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force

For the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

##### Sponsors:

President Young, Eric T. Costello, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Brandon M. Scott, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, John T. Bullock, Sharon Green Middleton, Robert Stokes, Sr., Shannon Sneed, Edward Reisinger, Zeke Cohen, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Bill Henry, Mary Pat Clarke

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**







## **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

### *Mission Statement*

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City*, the mission of the Budget and Appropriations Committee is to analyze and oversee the continuing operations, efficiency, and functions of Baltimore City government.

The Committee provides regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, periodically analyzes the budget reports and activities of those agencies, and maintains a high level of fiscal accountability in City government.

As a result of its analysis and oversight, the Committee will recommend reforms to improve the operations of any of these agencies; through legislative, administrative, and/or budgetary improvements.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

***TO BE TELEVISED ON CABLE TV 25***

**TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018  
10:00 AM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***Council Resolution #18-0082R  
Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools  
Enrollment Task Force***

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

### BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Eric Costello – Chair  
Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair  
Bill Henry  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Brandon M. Scott  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Shannon Sneed  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Zeke Cohen – Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke – Vice Chair  
John Bullock  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

### EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Robert Stokes – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett– Vice Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke  
Zeke Cohen  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

### HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

John Bullock – Chair  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer – Vice Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Bill Henry  
Shannon Sneed  
Zeke Cohen  
Ryan Dorsey  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*

### JUDICIARY AND LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Eric Costello – Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke – Vice Chair  
John Bullock  
Leon Pinkett  
Edward Reisinger  
Brandon Scott  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

### LABOR

Shannon Sneed – Chair  
Robert Stokes – Vice Chair  
Eric Costello  
Bill Henry  
Mary Pat Clarke  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

### LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Edward Reisinger - Chair  
Sharon Green Middleton – Vice Chair  
Mary Pat Clarke  
Eric Costello  
Ryan Dorsey  
Leon Pinkett  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Brandon Scott – Chair  
Ryan Dorsey – Vice Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Shannon Sneed  
Zeke Cohen  
Leon Pinkett  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*

### TAXATION, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sharon Green Middleton – Chair  
Leon Pinkett – Vice Chair  
Eric Costello  
Edward Reisinger  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*  
- Larry Greene (*pension only*)

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, 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

## BILL SYNOPSIS

**Committee:** Budget and Appropriations

**Council Resolution 18-0082R**

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### Investigative Hearing - Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force

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**Sponsor:** *President Young, et al*

**Introduced:** *April 30, 2018*

**Purpose:**

For the purpose of calling on representatives from the Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

**Effective:** Upon enactment

**Hearing Date/Time/Location:** Tuesday/May 8, 2018/10:00 AM/Council Chambers

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### Agency Reports

Baltimore City Public School System  
Department of Finance

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### Analysis

**Current Law**

The Annotated Code of Maryland – Article – Education – outlines the rules, regulations and mandates pertaining to Education in the State of Maryland.

## Background

The Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force currently consists of twenty-two (22) members. *See attached list of members.* The task force has met twice since its inception: November 15, 2017 and February 6, 2018.<sup>1</sup> When asked about the origins of the group, Schools' spokeswoman Edie House-Foster said that "following several years of declining enrollment, City Schools CEO Sonja Santelises created it to develop strategies for an enrollment campaign."<sup>2</sup>

On Tuesday, May 8, 2018 public school officials are requested to come before the committee to discuss the goals and membership of the task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in the Baltimore City Public School System.

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## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Law, Council Resolution 18-0082R and see footnotes below.

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Analysis by:  
Analysis Date:

*Marguerite M. Currin*  
Marguerite M. Currin  
May 4, 2018

Direct Inquiries to: 443-984-3485

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<sup>1</sup> The Baltimore Brew News Article dated April 24, 2018 entitled, "Closed-door task force on Baltimore School enrollment Draws Open Meetings Complaint"

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

**MEMBERS OF THE BCPS ENROLLMENT TASK FORCE (BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS)**

Jeff	Breslin	Under Armour
Cheryl	Casciani	Baltimore Community Foundation*
Beth	Drummond Casey	Bolton Hill Nursery
Marietta	English	Baltimore Teachers Union
Senator Bill	Ferguson	Maryland State Senate
Andrew	Frank	Johns Hopkins University*
Matt	Gallagher	Goldseker Foundation
Trish	Garcia Pilla	Parent Community Advisory Board (PCAB)
Tina	Hike-Hubbard	Enterprise Community Partners
Joshua	Lynn	Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City (ASCBC)
Billie	Malcolm	Baltimore Community Foundation
Donald	Manekin	Seawall Development
Annie	Milli	Live Baltimore
Sarah	Nagy	International Rescue Committee
Alison	Perkins-Cohen	Baltimore City Public Schools
Robert	Pipik	Baltimore Department of Planning
Johnette	Richardson	Belair-Edison Neighborhoods*
Dr. Sonja	Santelises	Baltimore City Public Schools
Roger	Schulman	Fund for Educational Excellence
Khalilah	Slater Harrington	Family League of Baltimore
Karen	Stokes	The Mayor's Office of Baltimore City
Paul	Wolman	Wolman Edge Consulting



**18-0082R**

**AGENCY REPORT**

**(None received as of this writing)**





**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 18-0082R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Costello, Schleifer, Scott, Burnett, Dorsey,  
Bullock, Middleton, Stokes, Sneed, Reisinger, Cohen, Pinkett, Henry, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: April 30, 2018

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear  
4 before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force  
5 and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining  
6 enrollment in our school system.

7 **Recitals**

8 According to recent press reports, a 22 member Baltimore City Public Schools task force has  
9 been meeting since last year to study the declining enrollment in the City's schools and ways to  
10 reverse this trend. Reportedly, the group's meetings have not been open to the public and the  
11 most direct stakeholders in our schools – parents and students – have only 1 representative each,  
12 less than 10% of the group's membership.

13 Declining enrollment is a serious concern for the school system, and it is appropriate and  
14 heartening to hear that BCPS recognizes the need for a group focused on this important issue.  
15 However, it is questionable whether a group can really understand and address a problem caused  
16 by the collective decisions of thousands of parents and students without meaningful participation  
17 and input from parents and students. Also, the Latinx population is the fastest growing segment  
18 that comprises overall student enrollment and is not properly represented.

19 A successful school system is an absolute necessity for Baltimore City. Declining enrollment  
20 is both a cause and a symptom of wider problems that our schools are experiencing. As such, it  
21 is a complicated issue that needs to be effectively and transparently considered and dealt with.  
22 The BCPS task force may in fact be a useful part of a broader effort to reverse declining  
23 enrollment; but on an issue this significant it is important that the public have a greater  
24 understanding of the task force's role, goals, and how it's work will advance the community  
25 engagement needed to get more children into our school system. A closed door policy simply  
26 doesn't allow the public to get answers to those questions.

27 Ultimately, parents and students will determine whether enrollment in City schools climbs or  
28 declines. They need to know that their input is important and will be sought by BCPS, and they  
29 need to know everything that BCPS is doing about the enrollment problem. A public hearing

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

**Council Bill 18-0082R**

1 before the City Council on the BCPS enrollment task force, and more broadly how BCPS plans  
2 to engage parents and students to address declining enrollment, would serve to provide the public  
3 with the answers they need and deserve.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
5 Council calls on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before it to  
6 discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a  
7 broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
9 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 18-0082R  
(Resolution)**

---

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Costello, Schleifer, Scott, Burnett, Dorsey,  
Bullock, Middleton, Stokes, Sneed, Reisinger, Cohen, Pinkett, Henry, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: April 30, 2018

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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

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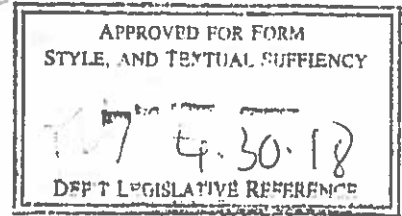
**Council Bill 18-0082R**

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8 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
9 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

**INTRODUCTORY\***  
**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_ R**  
**(Resolution)**



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Introduced by: President Young

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

**Investigative Hearing – Baltimore City Public Schools Enrollment Task Force**

FOR the purpose of calling on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before the City Council to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

**Recitals**

According to recent press reports, a 22 member Baltimore City Public Schools task force has been meeting since last year to study the declining enrollment in the City's schools and ways to reverse this trend. Reportedly, the group's meetings have not been open to the public and the most direct stakeholders in our schools – parents and students – have only 1 representative each, less than 10% of the group's membership.

Declining enrollment is a serious concern for the school system, and it is appropriate and heartening to hear that BCPS recognizes the need for a group focused on this important issue. However, it is questionable whether a group can really understand and address a problem caused by the collective decisions of thousands of parents and students without meaningful participation and input from parents and students. Also, the Latinx population is the fastest growing segment that comprises overall student enrollment and is not properly represented.

A successful school system is an absolute necessity for Baltimore City. Declining enrollment is both a cause and a symptom of wider problems that our schools are experiencing. As such, it is a complicated issue that needs to be effectively and transparently considered and dealt with. The BCPS task force may in fact be a useful part of a broader effort to reverse declining enrollment; but on an issue this significant it is important that the public have a greater understanding of the task force's role, goals, and how it's work will advance the community engagement needed to get more children into our school system. A closed door policy simply doesn't allow the public to get answers to those questions.

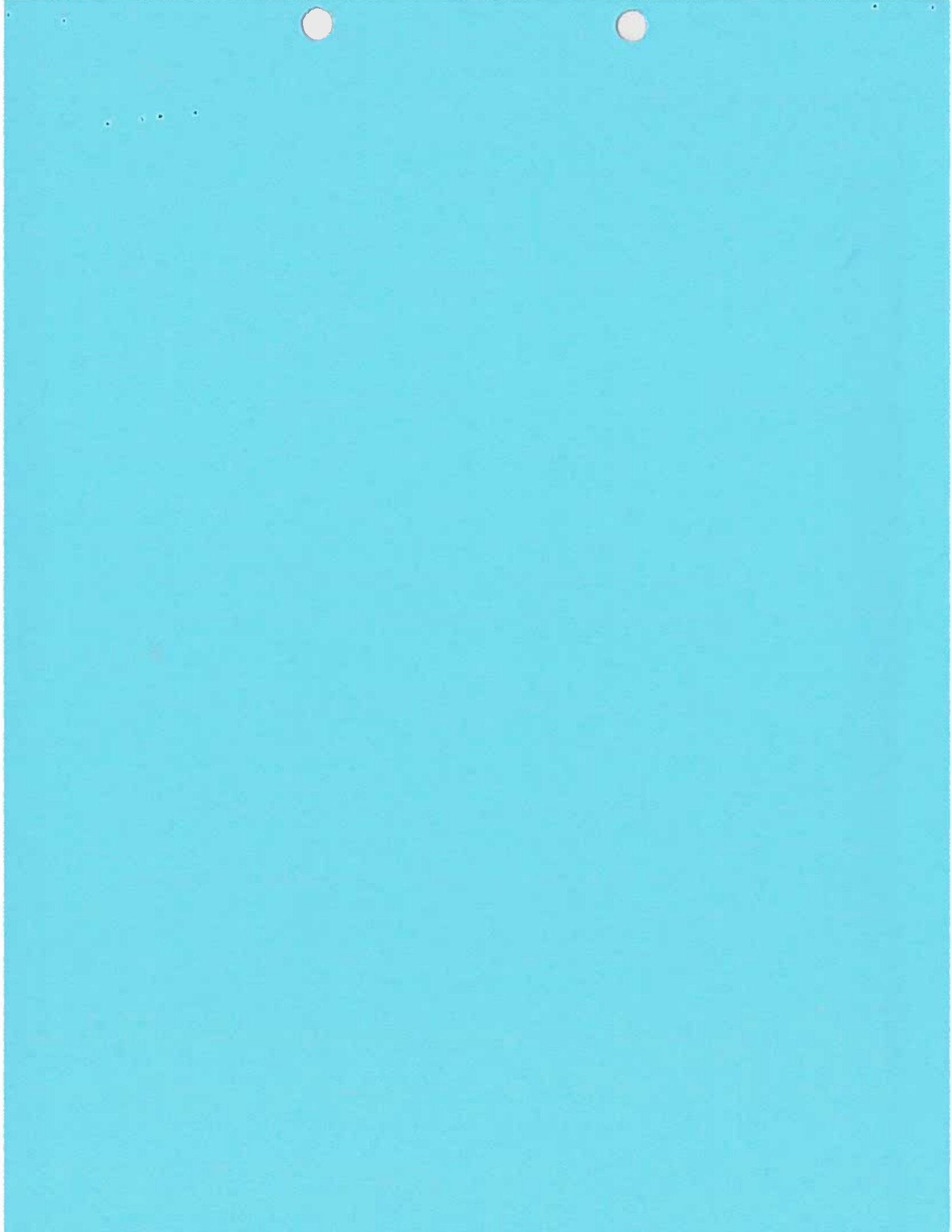
Ultimately, parents and students will determine whether enrollment in City schools climbs or declines. They need to know that their input is important and will be sought by BCPS, and they need to know everything that BCPS is doing about the enrollment problem. A public hearing before the City Council on the BCPS enrollment task force, and more broadly how BCPS plans

\* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.  
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

to engage parents and students to address declining enrollment, would serve to provide the public with the answers they need and deserve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the Council calls on representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools to appear before it to discuss the goals and membership of their enrollment task force and how the task force fits into a broader effort to engage the community to reverse declining enrollment in our school system.

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





**ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

APR 30 2018

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON May 8, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF May 14, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ UNFAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

MAY 14 2018  
20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

WITHDRAWAL \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk