

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Mayor, City of Baltimore

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Chair, Baltimore City Board  
of School Commissioners

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Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support  
Senate Bill 31  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners – Student Members and Task  
Force to Study Compensation**

**March 29, 2023**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (the Board) supports Senate Bill 31 and encourages passage of the legislation.

The City School Board wants to continue to promote the student member's ability to make serving on the school board a learning opportunity. The student member, even with the current restrictions in the law, serves on the Board's Policy Committee and votes on policies that are before the school board. The Policy Committee is one of the most important committees of the Board as it provides the overall direction for the school system and provides guidance to the CEO as she manages the daily activities of the school system.

The Board recognizes the importance of having a student member participate in the majority of voting decisions and does agree with the legislation that the only restriction the student should have is on collective bargaining and personnel.

Over the last year, the Board has worked with staff to look at how to manage and operate a schoolwide election. We have also tasked staff, over the last year, to work with the Associated Student Congress of Baltimore City and other student government associations to bring about greater participation in student government. Last year, the Board testified that it wanted a year to explore working with student government associations to build stronger and more robust organizations. The veto allowed the Board this time. Interest has increased and a broader representation of the student body in government associations has begun.

This year, the Board has become a hybrid board, i.e. combination of elected and appointed members. With the addition of two elected school board members coming to the City School Board this year, the Board does agree that a compensation study should be conducted.

Based upon the foregoing, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 31 and urges a favorable report.

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