

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
Support with Amendments  
Senate Bill 99 - Open Meetings Act - County Boards of Education - Enhanced Requirements  
(Local Boards of Education Transparency Act)**

**February 4, 2026**

This legislation would make local boards of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners be subjected to enhanced requirements under the Open Meetings Act. Specifically, it requires each local board of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to make publicly available on its website the agenda and minutes of each meeting and a live video stream of each portion of a meeting held in open session. The bill also requires each local board of education and the Baltimore City board of School Commissioners to maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived video recording of each open meeting where video streaming was made available for a minimum of five years after the date of the meeting. The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners prides itself as having open and transparent processes and meetings to keep the public informed of school board and school system activities.

Currently, the school board livestreams all of its public board meetings and committee meetings through the TEAMS platform. This platform allows the board meetings and committee meetings to be seen online. Furthermore, the meetings are played on Youtube, as the Baltimore City Schools has a Youtube channel. All meeting agenda and documents are posted on the City Schools website prior to all public board and committee meetings. There are also times that a committee of the Board will conduct a meeting at a school and livestream it. The Board has no concerns with having the public view live meetings.

The Board does have a concern with not allowing edited versions of the meetings once uploaded and maintaining the meetings on the City Schools website. Within the last several months, the Board was a victim of someone logging into the meeting and performing obscene and pornographic content. The person that logged onto the meeting also showed antisemitic pictures. The Board's Information Technology Office took the meeting offline while dealing with the situation, however, some of that content was visible to all viewers on line and in the meeting room. Board's need the latitude to appropriately edit the videos as this is clearly content that no one should be subjected to view.

Other issues that may appear to be worrisome is the public speaking during public comment on matters that are not allowed under the law. Even though the Board provides to speakers the rules for public comment and ask speakers the topic prior to the speaker providing testimony to the Board, sometimes people will not disclose their true topic and speak on items such as personnel issues that can, only by law, be spoken to other parties with the consent of the subject. Even though the Board provides these guidelines and the Board Chair will attempt to stop the speaker discussing unlawful items during public comment, if some of the information is spoken, the Board should have the ability to edit out such comments.

The other issue is the location of the archived material. Currently, the Board's archived meetings are found by moving to the school board's website and clicking on a link that takes it to the Youtube Platform for all meetings. There should be some language, if this bill were to pass, to allow Boards to maintain on their own website OR have an easily accessible link on the Board's website to take someone to a platform that will contain all video meetings.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendments Senate Bill 99.

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