



March 20th Action Update and Next Steps

Monday night, nearly 1000 BUILD leaders, principals, teachers, parents, students and Baltimoreans for Educational Equity (BEE) allies gathered at City Hall to send a strong message that we would not settle for a \$60 million solution to a \$130 million problem, and that all stakeholders needed to continue to work together to prevent budget cuts at the school level. We did this.



Furthermore, we secured a new commitment from City Council President Jack Young, who committed to make a **minimum of \$10 million in budget cuts** and direct those funds towards Baltimore City schools. This is in addition to the **\$30 million committed by Mayor Pugh** on March 10th, **bringing the city's commitment to its school system to a total of \$40 million.**

We are proud of the work that was accomplished and recognize the many people who came to the action to help secure the new \$10 million commitment. Together, we sent a strong message that **“we have to be all in.”** A spokesperson for the Mayor responded that she is continuing to work to find additional funding.

At the action we also shared information from an [official communication](#) posted to City School's Budget website which indicates *'Approximately \$30 million in savings generated from cuts and restrictions on spending and hiring at the district office will help close the projected budget gap.'* Many people had questions about the nature of the school system's sacrifices. Although the school system was unable to send a representative to the action due to on-going negotiations with the mayor and the governor, BUILD read the communication in the hopes of giving those assembled the most accurate, up-to-date representation of the current situation.

Next steps

We are still \$30 million short of a \$130 million solution. BUILD calls on all stakeholders to keep looking for money until a three-year solution that prevents school-level cuts has been found. We will also continue to work with our leaders to understand the school system's contribution and how it intends to use the other publicly committed funds.

Given this, we are asking all members and allies to call:

- The Governor – thank him for meeting with mayor and CEO and ask him to sign off on the \$30M state legislature's commitment and be all in to fund the \$30M gap. (410-974-3901)
- The Mayor – thank her for her initial commitment of \$30M/3 years and ask for her to be all in to fund \$30M gap. (410-396-4900)
- The State Legislature – call and thank Del. McIntosh for her commitment to \$30M/3years and encourage her to keep fighting to be all in to fund the \$30M gap. (410-841-3407)
- The City Council – call your councilperson and encourage them to support at least \$10M in cuts from the city budget and prioritize City Schools to fund the \$30M gap. (look up your council member here: <http://baltimorecitycouncil.com/council-district-map>)