

City of Boston
In City Council

RESOLUTION

Requesting the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to Assist School Districts

By Chuck Turner

Tobin, Yancey, Pressley, Arroyo, LaMattina, Feeney, Murphy, Linehan and Ciommo *January 27, 2010*

- Whereas, the BPS estimates that it will require five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) to make all the repairs and improvements necessary to put Boston's public school infrastructure into good condition; and
- Whereas, the City administration invests an average of thirty five million dollars (35,000,000) a year in capital improvements in school infrastructure; and
- Whereas, at the rate of thirty five million dollars (\$35,000,000) a year, it will take fifteen (15) years of investment in school infrastructure to accumulate the five hundred million (\$500,000,000) which is needed today; and
- Whereas, given the difficulty of increasing the yearly amount invested in school capital repair, it is clear that the City of Boston does not have the financial capacity of bringing our school infrastructure into good condition; and
- Whereas, the state has not distributed to Massachusetts school districts any money for capital repair for the last three years; and
- Whereas, while the state solicited information from school districts last year regarding priority school infrastructure needs, it emphasized also its inability to fund any more than one school per district, if that; and
- Whereas, the federal government historically has **not** assisted the financing of public school infrastructure; and
- Whereas, there was no money for school infrastructure repair in last year's federal stimulus package; and
- Whereas, it is estimated that it will cost two hundred and fifty billion dollars (\$250,000,000) to bring our national public school infrastructure into good condition; and
- Whereas, governmental investment in construction is viewed by economists as one of the better stimulus mechanisms given the high multiplier effect that construction activity has on local economies. Therefore, Be It
- Resolved, that the Boston City Council calls on our Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to lead a campaign to persuade the President and Congress to take two hundred and fifty billion dollars (\$250,000,000,000) from returned bank bailout money to distribute to school districts throughout the country to assure that by December 2013 we have a safe, healthy national public school infrastructure.