

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 160046)

## RESOLUTION

Authorizing the joint Committees on Education and Public Safety to conduct public hearings to examine the physical safety of Philadelphia schools.

WHEREAS, On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 13, 2016, while classes were in session at Franklin S. Edmonds School, an explosion occurred in the boiler room, critically injuring maintenance worker Chris Trakimas; and

WHEREAS, The building engineer, who wishes to remain anonymous, acted swiftly and heroically to extinguish the flames that burned Mr. Trakimas, limiting the extent of his injury and potential harm to others; and

WHEREAS, The explosion led first to the evacuation of students, visitors, and personnel, then to the closure of the school for two days because the building's heating system was disabled; and

WHEREAS, The cause of the explosion has yet to be officially determined, while both the School District and the Philadelphia Fire Department continue their respective investigations; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently Alain Locke Elementary School closed midway through the Tuesday, January 19th school day due to a problem with its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning unit; and

WHEREAS, The School District of Philadelphia, Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, and represented maintenance employees, have since made an agreement providing for the reinspection of every boiler in every District school building; and

WHEREAS, Every student deserves and requires for their educational attainment the physical safety and the psychological assurance of well-maintained premises; and

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*RESOLUTION NO. 160046 continued*

WHEREAS, No maintenance, instructional, or other type of School District employee should be working in buildings suffering from unsafe conditions; and

WHEREAS, Parents across Philadelphia should feel just as comfortable sending their children into school buildings as they do visiting themselves; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing state underfunding of district needs, particularly those of Philadelphia, strain capital investments in our schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby authorize the joint Committees on Education and Public Safety conduct public hearings to examine the physical safety of Philadelphia schools.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 160046 continued*

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*RESOLUTION NO. 160046 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-first of January, 2016.

Darrell L. Clarke  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Green, Blackwell, Jones, Parker and Gym

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Green, Blackwell, Jones, Parker and Gym