

BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Closures
Effective June 30, 2014

As Part of City Schools' Portfolio Review

March 25, 2014

OVERVIEW

Each of Baltimore City Public Schools' 85,000 students has unique interests and needs, and the district is committed to making sure they all have access to the programs, opportunities and supports they need to succeed academically and in life after school.

This commitment to student success has generated major changes to the district's landscape in recent years: City Schools has gone from being a district where most students were required to attend zoned schools closest to their homes, regardless of quality or focus, to a district where students have a wide range of quality options and far greater opportunity to choose the school they attend, regardless of where they live. City Schools is building a portfolio of high-quality school programs spanning different grade configurations, governance structures, academic programs and themes.

This transformation of City Schools is guided by the key reform principles and priorities that have been articulated by district leadership and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (the Board). These reform principles spell out the district's commitment to

- Fair and open decision making
- School autonomy and accountability for student progress
- Broad public engagement in the district's reforms

And the priorities call for

- High-quality curricula and instruction that increase learning
- Effective, supported staff
- High-quality, collaborative work and learning environments
- Family and community ownership of schools and student success
- Strong fiscal stewardship and management practices
- A portfolio of great schools of all types, in all areas of the city

City Schools' work to create a portfolio of great school options is a direct outgrowth of the reform principles. It launched initially as an annual review of schools to ensure a broad range of school options in every area of the city with all schools doing the best job possible of positioning students to succeed. From this review the district developed recommendations to expand programs that proved effective and to shore up or close programs that were chronically low performing. This review became the process by which the district now manages its school portfolio to ensure that all students in all schools receive the quality education they deserve.

Over the years, City Schools' portfolio review has expanded to reflect the growing number and complexity of the district's efforts to ensure excellent teaching and learning for every student in every classroom in every school. City Schools increased its number of charter schools, and the consideration of charter applications was folded into the portfolio review process. It developed a new middle-high school model and entered into contracts with external operators to create and run these schools; this, too, became part of the portfolio review process. And for several years when the district received federal stimulus funds to "turn around" struggling schools, the designation of these schools also fell under the portfolio review.

As the scope of the district's portfolio review has expanded, its analysis has become more robust and its recommendations more far reaching. The district has developed new systems to capture more and deeper data from and about schools, and it has aligned the portfolio review work with other reform efforts. This year, City Schools' portfolio review incorporates an improved renewal process for charter and operator-run schools, and a yearly evaluation of school buildings the district now conducts to update its 21st-Century Buildings Plan, which will guide the renovation and replacement of district school buildings in the coming years.

In the 2013-14 school year, the district recommended closing eight low-performing schools, some with significantly under-utilized buildings, and transferring control of two vacant school buildings to the City of Baltimore. These recommendations were put forward in two groups, the first late in 2013 and the second early in 2014.

Under the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), the closure of schools requires time and community input. Community participation is critical to the transformation of City Schools, and the district therefore urged the public to provide input to

inform the process and to help make sure the district is taking the necessary steps to meet the needs of its students, families and school communities.

The following report presents the details of the recommended eight school closures and two surplus buildings, the public engagement process and the Board's decisions regarding the recommendations.

Summary of the Recommendations

- Close Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School, Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School, Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School, Baltimore Talent Development High School, Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Middle, Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West and Friendship Academy of Science and Technology as of June 30, 2014, and support students' and families' participation in the middle and high school choice process to select a new school for 2014-15.

Higher performing schools with available seats include Academy for College and Career Exploration, Baltimore I.T. Academy, Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove, Booker T. Washington Middle School, Carver Vocational-Technical High School, Digital Harbor High School, Edmondson-Westside High School, Forest Park High School, Frederick Douglass High School, Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology, Green Street Academy, KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy), Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II, National Academy Foundation, New Era Academy, Patterson High School, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Reginald F. Lewis High School, Stadium School, The REACH! Partnership School, Vanguard Collegiate Middle School and Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy.

- Close Baltimore Community High School in June 2017 and, as that date approaches, support enrolled students' and families' participation in the middle and high school choice process to select a new school for 2017-18.
- Surplus the CORPS building and the Laurence G. Paquin building and return control of these buildings to the City of Baltimore.

Public Engagement

Community participation was an important part of the review process leading up to the Board's consideration of the proposed closures included in the district's annual portfolio review. City Schools urged the public to provide input to inform the process and to help make sure City Schools continues to take the necessary steps to meet the needs of its students, families and school communities.

Taking the Recommendations to the Community

City Schools held school-based meetings at each of the eight schools recommended for closure. These individual meetings were designed to allow families, staff and community members to provide feedback and ask questions of district staff regarding the closure recommendation for their school.

For the seven schools included in the initial set of recommendations, presented to the Board on November 12, 2013, the school-based meetings took place between the end of November and the middle of December, purposely scheduled in advance of the formal, state-mandated public hearings that City Schools and the Board held on December 2, 2013, and December 17, 2013. (The public hearing scheduled for December 10, 2013, was canceled due to inclement weather, and moved to December 17, 2013, which was the posted inclement weather date.) At these state-mandated hearings, the public had the opportunity to comment on the first set of closure recommendations.

Due to Board action taken at its public business meeting on December 17, 2013 (explained more fully below), an additional school—beyond the initial seven—was recommended for closure. City Schools held a school-based meeting on January 14, 2014, at this additional school. The Board then held a state-mandated public hearing on February 11, 2014, to hear comments regarding the final school closure recommendation, along with the transfer of two buildings to the City of Baltimore.

State-Mandated Hearings

Location	Date and Time
Digital Harbor High School Auditorium 1100 Covington St. Baltimore, MD 21230	Monday, December 2, 2013 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
City Schools District Office First Floor Board Room 200 E. North Ave. Baltimore, MD 21202	Tuesday, December 17, 2013 4:30 to 6 p.m.
City Schools District Office First Floor Board Room 200 E. North Ave. Baltimore, MD 21202	Tuesday, February 11, 2014 5 to 6 p.m.

The discussion from these community meetings and public hearings is summarized in the school-specific sections following.

Prior to the community meetings at each school, City Schools released a report with its recommendations. Copies were provided to the Board of School Commissioners and placed on the City Schools website and the websites of the affected schools. Citywide and elected officials representing the district of each affected school were contacted by the district to review the recommendations. A copy of the report was provided to the eight affected schools for review by the general public. Copies of the report were available upon request from the Board Office and the district's Engagement Office.

In addition to the community meetings and the public hearings, a school-based steering committee was created at each school proposed for closure. Each of the steering committees met at least two times and was charged with providing written comments to City Schools' interim CEO and staff regarding the proposed closure of the steering committee's school. Members of the steering committees will continue to be engaged in the schools' transition in the coming months.

The Board also accepted written comment or data until 5 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2013 (for the first set of recommendations), and until 5 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2014 (for the second set of recommendations). Stakeholders were advised to send their comments to the Board via postal mail and/or e-mail.

Notice

In order to engage the community in the portfolio review process and to encourage the greatest amount of feedback possible regarding the various recommendations, City Schools employed a variety of communication methods. The presentation and report with initial recommendations that were provided to the Board on November 12, 2013, were also posted on City Schools' website and individual school-based websites, with a link to the document provided on homepages. Similarly, the report with additional recommendations released on January 14, 2014, was posted on City Schools' website and the affected school's website.

Formal notice providing detailed information about the public hearings was advertised in two local newspapers, *The Baltimore Sun* and *The Daily Record*, on Wednesday, November 13, 2013. On January 15, 2014, notice was given in the same two newspapers about the additional proposed closure and the return of control of two unused buildings to the City of Baltimore.

For the first seven recommendations, copies of the public hearing notice and letters notifying families of the proposed school closures were sent home with students by November 13, 2013. Communications regarding the additional school closure recommendation (and return of vacant buildings to the City of Baltimore) were sent home with students by January 18, 2014. More than two weeks in advance of the public hearings, City Schools distributed notices regarding the community meetings and the public hearings (including a copy of the newspaper notice) to parents/legal guardians at all affected schools. Finally, automated telephone calls were made to families at all schools included in the recommendations to notify them of the public hearings, email messages were sent to families for whom City Schools had working email addresses available, information was provided via recorded message on the district's automated telephone directory system and notice was shared with Steering Committee members.

Interim CEO's Recommendations Regarding Closures and Building Dispositions

City Schools' interim CEO Tisha Edwards made her initial recommendations regarding school closures to the Board during the Board's public meeting on the evening of November 12, 2013. The recommendations, as presented by staff, were as follows:

School	Interim CEO's Recommendation
Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
Baltimore Talent Development High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Middle	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
Baltimore Community High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process

On the evening of January 14, 2014, during the Board's public business meeting, City Schools interim CEO Tisha Edwards made recommendations regarding an additional school closure and the return of two school buildings to the City of Baltimore. These additional recommendations, as presented by staff, were as follows:

School	Interim CEO's Recommendation
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process
CORPS building	Surplus to the City of Baltimore
Laurence G. Paquin building	Surplus to the City of Baltimore

Board Meetings

On Tuesday, December 17, 2013, and on February 25, 2014, the Board held regularly scheduled public business meetings, which, in accordance with standard operating procedures, were televised publicly on Education Channel 77 via cable television in Baltimore City.

Code of Maryland Regulations

As required by COMAR, the Board considered certain factors regarding whether the recommended schools should be closed and the two buildings transferred to the city:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

In the cases of Baltimore Community High School and Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West, the interim CEO revised her recommendations to the Board based on input received from the public during the community engagement process. The revisions to the original recommendations are captured in the table below.

The Votes

There are eight voting members of the Board. During the December 17, 2013, public session, all eight members were in attendance. The Board voted as follows:

School	Interim CEO's Final Recommendation	Board Action	Vote
Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process	Adopted recommendation	7 yes, 0 no (1 not present for the vote)
Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process	Adopted recommendation	8 yes, 0 no
Baltimore Community High School	Close effective June 30, 2017; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process at that time	Adopted recommendation	5 yes, 3 no
Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process	Adopted recommendation	8 yes, 0 no
Baltimore Talent Development High School	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process.	Adopted recommendation	5 yes, 3 no
Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Middle	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process.	Adopted recommendation	8 yes, 0 no
Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West	Do not close as of June 30, 2014; review proposals from potential school operators who may partner with the school in future years	Adopted recommendation	7 yes, 1 no

During the February 25, 2014, public Board meeting, eight Board members were in attendance and participated in the voting process. The Board voted as follows:

School/Building	Interim CEO's Final Recommendation	Board Action	Vote
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	Close effective June 30, 2014; allow students the opportunity to participate in the school choice process	Adopted recommendation	7 yes, 1 recusal
Laurence G. Paquin building	Surplus to the City of Baltimore	Adopted recommendation	8 yes, 0 no
CORPS building	Surplus to the City of Baltimore	Adopted recommendation	8 yes, 0 no

Specific details regarding the interim CEO's recommendations and the Board's decisions and supporting rationale follow for each school and building.

BALTIMORE ANTIOCH DIPLOMA PLUS HIGH SCHOOL #366

(Fairmount-Harford Building)
2555 Harford Road
Baltimore, MD 21218

Interim CEO's Recommendations

- Close the Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School program
- Support students' and families' participation in the high school choice process to identify better school options appropriate for each student

Summary

School Data

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• English HSA*	n/a	64.7	34.9	36.5
• Algebra HSA*	n/a	70.6	31.4	27.9
4-year cohort graduation rate	0.0	10.1	26.7	—**
Student attendance rate (%)	61.5	48.0	44.9	46.4
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	62.7	65.5	63.3	67.1

* 12th-grade cumulative pass rate on the Maryland High School Assessment, as a percentage

** Not available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013

- Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School (Antioch) is an alternative options transformation high school serving students who are older than their grade-level peers and behind in credits. The program is operated under contract by Third Sector New England, Inc., and Diploma Plus, Inc. As described in the report resulting from the district's renewal process for charter and operator-run schools, the New and Charter School Advisory Board recommended that the contract to operate the school not be renewed.
- As described in the renewal report, the school received an overall rating of Not Effective in the area of student academic achievement.
- With respect to High School Assessment (HSA) results, Antioch's cumulative 12th-grade pass rate on the Algebra HSA has declined over the past three years and the English pass rate has remained low, as noted in the table above. Further, on the renewal rubric, the school received a rating of Not Effective for HSA Algebra and HSA English among 9th- and 10th-grade students, with only 12.7 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively, passing or improving.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
9	153	175	178	112	
10	17	146	155	131	
11	n/a	22	63	94	
12	n/a	2	42	26	
Total	172**	345	438	363	388

* Preliminary data available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013, pending confirmation by the Maryland State Department of Education as official enrollment

** In 2009-10, Antioch also had two students in 8th grade.

Board's Action

By unanimous vote on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendations. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

The interim CEO recommended closing Antioch due to poor academic performance, the recommended nonrenewal of the operator and the better options available for students within the current City Schools portfolio.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 38 staff members at Antioch, 16 are in positions for delivery of instruction.
- There are 91 students with disabilities at Antioch; 1 student receives 60 percent of her/his education with a special educator, outside of the general education classroom.

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- To serve its over-age, under-credited students, an accelerated credit-acquisition program is provided.
- Advanced Placement courses in English Language and U.S. Government and Politics, Career Research and Development and internship programming are offered.

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- Antioch students can participate in student government.
- Students have access to extended-day programming, HSA prep, academic counseling.
- Antioch has partnerships with PNC Bank, Healthy Start, TIME Organization and Wells Fargo. There is an on-site food pantry.

Student Relocation

Under the City Schools recommendation to close Antioch, students will have a range of school options with available seats to choose from, including transformation schools, high schools that offer a range of academic and career preparation programs, and high schools and programs with credit recovery and acceleration options for over-age, under-credited students. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for Antioch Students

	Minimum Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	100
Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School	75
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	100
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	100
Digital Harbor High School	100
Edmondson-Westside High School	100
Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School	100
Forest Park High School	50
Frederick Douglass High School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	100
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	50
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	100
Patterson High School	100
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	100
The REACH! Partnership School	100
Reginald F. Lewis High School	100
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	10

* Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences among students at Antioch and at the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from Antioch should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	American Indian
Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School	98.3	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School	98.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	58.0	30.7	10.1	0.9	0.0
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	98.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1
Digital Harbor High School	73.4	14.8	9.3	1.8	0.4
Edmondson-Westside High School	98.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School	98.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forest Park High School	98.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0
Frederick Douglass High School	97.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.9

KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	95.2	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.1
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2.0	0.1
New Era Academy	90.4	2.0	6.5	0.6	0.3
Patterson High School	67.6	10.7	14.0	6.3	0.8
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	96.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1
The REACH! Partnership School	95.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.2
Reginald F. Lewis High School	96.3	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	93.0	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.2

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of Antioch will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools’ students are able to choose where they go to high school, closure of Antioch may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

Antioch shares space in the Fairmount-Harford Building with Achievement Academy. Preliminary data for the 2013-14 school year show enrollment for Antioch at 388; enrollment at the alternative options program offered at Achievement Academy changes over the course of the year, with students remaining on the rosters of their home schools.

Type:	Alternative options high school	State-rated capacity:	742
Grades served:	9-12	Building utilization rate (2012-13):	98.4%
Address:	2555 Harford Road Baltimore, MD 21218	Facility Condition Index*:	84.7%
Planning area:	East	Educational Adequacy Score*:	50.3
Date constructed:	1924		
Site size:	3.9 acres		
Building area:	159,587 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building’s condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally, a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

- Based on the *State of School Facilities* report, a savings of \$31,459,576 in maintenance and repair costs is anticipated over the next 10 years with the closure of the Fairmount-Harford building, which will be vacated after the currently co-located Achievement Academy moves to a new location.
- The Antioch budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year is just under \$3.5 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to students through Fair Student Funding will follow students to the schools they select for the 2014-15 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- Parents asked about the process for identifying which school students will attend next year. Information about the choice process for students was shared with parents and students, and district office staff committed to coming to Antioch to hold individual enrollment sessions for students.
- School community members requested supports to ensure a productive home and school environment during the closure process.
- The closure of Antioch will affect partnerships with PNC Bank, Healthy Start, TIME Organization and Wells Fargo, as well as the on-site food pantry available for the community.

Summary of the Board’s Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO’s recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports and comments, the Board will close Baltimore Antioch Diploma Plus High School effective June 30, 2014.

BALTIMORE CIVITAS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL #343

(Walbrook Building)
2000 Edgewood Street
Baltimore, MD 21216

Interim CEO’s Recommendations

- Close the Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School program
- Support students’ and families’ participation in the middle and high school choice process to identify better school options appropriate for each student

Summary

School Data

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• Reading MSA*	69.0	56.4	38.8	44.9
• Math MSA*	30.2	25.4	20.7	15.5
• English HSA**	n/a	n/a	52.8	51.4
• Algebra HSA**	n/a	n/a	43.4	29.7
4-year cohort graduation rate	n/a	0.0	91.2	—***
Student attendance rate (%)	92.3	94.0	87.2	86.3
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	n/a	62.8	47.0	49.4

* Percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Maryland School Assessment

** 12th-grade cumulative pass rate on the Maryland High School Assessment, as a percentage

***Not available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013

- Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School (Civitas) is a transformation school serving grades 6 to 12. Until June 2013, it was operated under contract by the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University; in February 2013, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners voted not to renew this operator contract beyond the 2012-13 school year, and in the current 2013-14 school year, Civitas has been run by the district.

- Civitas is one of the lowest performing schools in the state, with an MSA proficient/advanced rate in the 2012-13 school year of 44.9 percent in reading and 15.5 percent in math and an HSA pass rate of 51.4 percent in English and 29.7 percent in algebra. Both MSA reading and math scores have declined since four years ago, as noted in the chart above.
- The school survey data indicate that Civitas students are not satisfied with their school; the percentage of positive responses at Civitas has declined since 2010-11.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
6	44	70	63	53	
7	75	69	76	51	
8		84	73	60	
9	77	58	108	52	
10	67	73	35	44	
11		56	61	27	
12			53	43	
Total	263	410	469	330	344

** Preliminary data available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013, pending confirmation by the Maryland State Department of Education as official enrollment*

- Enrollment in 2012-13 is 30 percent below what it was in the 2011-12 school year, the only other year when students were enrolled in all grades.
- Resources are allocated based on student enrollment. Because of the small number of students in each grade at Civitas, the school has limited resources, such that it is difficult for the school to sustain quality programming at each grade level.
- Civitas is located in the Walbrook building, where Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West (BDJ West) is also located. As of September 30, 2013, Civitas had 344 students enrolled; when combined with 541 at BDJ West, building utilization remains below 50 percent.

Board's Action

By unanimous vote on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendations. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

- The interim CEO recommended closing Civitas due to poor academic performance and low enrollment.
- The Walbrook building is under-utilized, and there are seats in other middle and high schools that are available to Civitas students.
- At the time of the Board vote in February 2013 not to renew the contract of the school's operator for a subsequent term, district staff recommended closure of Civitas at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 50 staff members at Civitas, 19 are in positions that deliver instruction.
- There are 100 students with disabilities at Civitas; 34 students receive 60 percent of their education with a special educator, outside of the general education classroom. (Of these 34 students, 18 participate in the citywide PAL program.)

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- Programming includes a focus on citizenship and experiential learning.

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- Choir, dance, chess/tea club, middle school basketball and varsity football are offered as extracurricular activities.
- Students have access to summer programming and academic counseling.
- Partners include Sinai Hospital and the Maryland General Hospital. On-site health services are available.

Student Relocation

Under the City Schools recommendation to close Civitas, students will have a range of school options with available seats, including transformation schools, middle schools and high schools. In addition to options available through the middle school choice process, middle grades students who live in a neighborhood with a “zoned” elementary/middle school or an elementary school that feeds another school for middle grades can attend that school. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for Civitas Middle School Students

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	10
Baltimore I.T. Academy	100
Booker T. Washington Middle School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	75
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	10
Green Street Academy	100
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	20
Stadium School	20
Vanguard Collegiate Middle School	325

** Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.*

Available Receiving School Options for Civitas High School Students

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	100
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	100
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	100
Digital Harbor High School	100
Edmondson-Westside High School	100
Forest Park High School	50
Frederick Douglass High	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	100
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	50
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy High School	100
Patterson High School	100
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	100
The REACH! Partnership School	100
Reginald F. Lewis High School	100
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	10

** Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.*

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences among students at Civitas and at the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from Civitas should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

School Name	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian
Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School	98.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.0
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Baltimore I.T. Academy	96.9	2.5	0.3	0.0	0.3
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	58.0	30.7	10.1	0.9	0.0
Booker T. Washington Middle School	97.8	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.3
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	98.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1
Digital Harbor High School	73.4	14.8	9.3	1.8	0.4
Edmondson-Westside High School	98.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Forest Park High School	98.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0
Frederick Douglass High School	97.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.9
Green Street Academy	96.5	2.9	0.3	0.0	0.3
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	95.2	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.1
NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4

National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2.0	0.1
New Era Academy	90.4	2.0	6.5	0.6	0.3
Patterson High School	67.6	10.7	14.0	6.3	0.8
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	96.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1
Reginald F. Lewis High School	96.3	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
Stadium School	99.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0
The REACH! Partnership School	95.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.2
Vanguard Collegiate Middle School	98.5	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.3
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	93.0	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.2

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of Civitas will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools’ students are able to choose where they go to high school, closure of Civitas may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

Civitas shares space in the Walbrook Building with Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West. Preliminary data for the 2013-14 school year show enrollment for the two schools at 344 and 541, respectively.

Type:	Transformation school	State-rated capacity:	1,829
Grades served:	6-12	Building utilization rate (2012-13):	48.1%
Address:	2000 Edgewood Street Baltimore, MD 21216	Facility Condition Index*:	29.3%
Planning area:	West	Educational Adequacy Score*:	56.4
Date constructed:	1971		
Site size:	13.6 acres		
Building area:	258,850 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building’s condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

- Based on the *State of School Facilities* report, a savings of \$17,640,310 in maintenance and repair costs is anticipated over the next 10 years if the Walbrook building is vacated.
- The Civitas budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year is just over \$3.5 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to students under City Schools’ Fair Student Funding model will follow students to the schools they attend in the 2014-15 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- The Civitas school community asked City Schools to consider keeping the school open by making Civitas a health and sciences school similar to Viven T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy and to identify another location for the program if Walbrook building was not an option.
- City Schools staff shared information about the rationale for the closure and information about the process for students to identify a new school that meets their needs.
- The closure of Civitas will also affect partnerships with Sinai Hospital and the Maryland General Hospital.

Summary of the Board’s Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO’s recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports and comments, the Board will close Baltimore Civitas Middle/High School effective June 30, 2014.

BALTIMORE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL #367

(Southeast Building)
6820 Fait Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224

Interim CEO Recommendations

- *Initial recommendation:* Close the Baltimore Community High School program and vacate the Southeast building in June 2014
- *Final recommendation:* Close the Baltimore Community High School program and vacate the Southeast building in June 2017

Summary

School Data

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• Reading MSA*	40.8	27.0	20.0	37.0
• Math MSA*	0.0	2.9	4.2	17.4
• English HSA**	n/a	47.5	52.4	34.4
• Algebra HSA**	n/a	36.1	42.9	21.9
4-year cohort graduation rate	n/a	36.8	32.7	—***
Student attendance rate (%)	80.4	70.0	55.7	66.3
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	59.7	57.4	54.7	69.8

* Percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Maryland School Assessment

** 12th-grade cumulative pass rate on the Maryland High School Assessment, as a percentage

***Not available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013

- Baltimore Community High School (Baltimore Community) is a transformation school serving grades 6 to 12, with programming for students who are older than their grade-level peers and behind in credits. Until June 30, 2013, the school was operated by One Bright Ray Inc., which decided in spring 2013 not to seek a renewal of its contract. Beginning on July 1, 2013, Baltimore Community has been operated by the district.

- Baltimore Community is one of the lowest performing middle/high schools in the city. As shown in the table above, the percentage of middle school students scoring proficient or advanced on the most recent MSA was 37 percent in reading and 17.4 percent in math, while among high school students, the 2012-13 pass rate for the HSA was 34.4 percent in English and 21.9 percent in Algebra.
- For the 2012-13 school year, student attendance dropped by 14 percentage points over the 80 percent high of three years earlier.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
6	0	2	0	8	
7	9	14	9	17	
8	68	30	17	24	
9	77	120	84	119	
10	5	65	79	75	
11		61	47	61	
12		3	25	27	
Total	159	295	261	331	421

** Preliminary data available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013, pending confirmation by the Maryland State Department of Education as official enrollment*

Despite increasing enrollment, the Southeast building where Baltimore Community is located remains significantly under-utilized.

Board's Action

By a vote of five in favor and three opposed on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the Board adopted the interim CEO's final recommendations. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

- The interim CEO recommended closing Baltimore Community due to poor academic performance and low enrollment.
- The Southeast building is under-utilized, and there are seats available in other programs for middle and high school students, including stronger programs for those who are over age and under credited.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 42 staff members at Baltimore Community, 17 are in positions that deliver instruction.
- There are 55 students with disabilities at Baltimore Community; 1 student receives 60 percent of her/his education from a special educator, outside of the general education classroom.

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- To serve its over-age, under-credited students, an accelerated credit acquisition program is provided.
- Career Research and Development (high school) and Gateway to Technology: Project Lead the Way (middle school) are offered.
- Baltimore Community is an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) site.

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- Baltimore Community students can participate in student government, chess, yearbook, robotics, environment/greening/recycling, step, baseball, basketball and volleyball.
- Students have access to summer and Saturday programming, along with tutoring and academic counseling.
- Partnerships exist with the U.S. Coast Guard and Morgan State University. There is an on-site food pantry.

Student Relocation

This school will remain open until June 30, 2017, and will continue to accept new students until that school year as well as serving students currently enrolled. As a district that offers middle and high school choice, Baltimore Community students can choose to attend a different school in years preceding the school's closure. Under the City Schools recommendation to close Baltimore Community, students will have a range of school options with available seats to choose from, including transformation schools, high schools that offer a range of academic and career preparation programs, and schools and programs with credit recovery and acceleration options for over-age, under-credited students. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for Baltimore Community Students*

	Min. Available Seats for 2014-15**
Academy for College and Career Exploration	100
Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School	75
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	100
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	100
Digital Harbor High School	100
Edmondson-Westside High School	100
Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School	100
Forest Park High School	50
Frederick Douglass High School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	100
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	50
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	100
Patterson High School	100
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	100
The REACH! Partnership School	100

Reginald F. Lewis High School	100
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	10

* Baltimore Community students now enrolled at the middle school level are of high school age; hence, options listed here reflect age-appropriate schools and programs. Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.

** Provided for illustrative purposes; options may change for 2017-18

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences between students at Baltimore Community and the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from Baltimore Community should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

School	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian
Baltimore Community High School	81.0	6.3	11.5	0.9	0.3
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School	98.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	58.0	30.7	10.1	0.9	0.0
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	98.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1
Digital Harbor High School	73.4	14.8	9.3	1.8	0.4
Edmondson-Westside High School	98.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School	98.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forest Park High School	98.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0
Frederick Douglass High School	97.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.9
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	95.2	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.1
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2.0	0.1
New Era Academy	90.4	2.0	6.5	0.6	0.3
Patterson High School	67.6	10.7	14.0	6.3	0.8
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	96.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1
The REACH! Partnership School	95.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.2
Reginald F. Lewis High School	96.3	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	93.0	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.2

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of Baltimore Community will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools' students are able to choose where they go to high school, closure of Baltimore Community may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.

- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

Type:	Transformation school	State-rated capacity:	552
Grades served:	6-12	Building utilization rate (2012-13):	59.9%
Address:	6820 Fait Avenue Baltimore, MD 21224	Facilities Condition Index*:	39.5%
Planning area:	Southeast	Educational Adequacy Score*:	56.6
Date constructed:	1976		
Site size:	0.9 acres		
Building area:	95,681 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building's condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

- Based on the *State of School Facilities* report, a savings of \$8,801,426 in maintenance and repair costs is anticipated over the next 10 years with the closure of the Baltimore Community program and vacating of the Southeast building.
- Baltimore Community's budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year is just over \$3.6 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to students through Fair Student Funding will follow students to the schools they select for the 2017-18 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- Parents asked about the process for identifying which school students will attend in future years. Concerns were expressed about the availability of similar programs for students at Baltimore Community High School. Information about the choice process for students was shared with parents and students, and district office staff committed to coming to Baltimore Community to hold individual enrollment sessions for students.
- School community members requested supports to ensure a productive school environment during the closure process.
- The closure of Baltimore Community will affect partnerships with U.S. Coast Guard and Morgan State University, as well as the on-site food pantry available for the community.

Summary of the Board's Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO's recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports and comments, the Board will close Baltimore Community High School effective June 30, 2017.

BALTIMORE LIBERATION DIPLOMA PLUS HIGH SCHOOL #365

(William H. Lemmel Building)
2801 N. Dukeland Street
Baltimore, MD 21216

Interim CEO's Recommendations

- Close the Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School program
- Support students' and families' participation in the high school choice process to identify better school options appropriate for each student

Summary

School Data

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• English HSA*	n/a	40.0	33.3	25.0
• Algebra HSA*	n/a	40.0	31.7	27.9
4-year cohort graduation rate	n/a	5.2	11.0	—**
Student attendance rate (%)	54.4	46.6	37.9	58.7
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	54.4	n/a	61.7	66.7

*12th-grade cumulative pass rate on the Maryland High School Assessment, as a percentage

** Not available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013

- Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School (Liberation) is an alternative options transformation high school serving students who are older than their grade-level peers and behind in credits. The program is operated under contract by Third Sector New England, Inc., and Diploma Plus, Inc. As described in the report resulting from the district's renewal process for charter and operator-run schools, the New and Charter School Advisory Board has recommended that the contract to operate the school not be renewed.
- As described in the renewal report, the school received an overall rating of Not Effective in the area of student achievement.
- With respect to High School Assessment (HSA) results, Liberation's cumulative 12th-grade pass rates on both the Algebra and English HSAs have declined over the past three years. Further, on the renewal rubric, the school received a rating of Not Effective for HSA Algebra and HSA English among 9th- and 10th-grade students, with only 14.3 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively, passing or improving.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10*	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14**
9	133	175	206	222	
10	27	101	119	138	
11	7	32	62	85	
12	1	1	11	46	
Total	169	309	398	491	491

*In 2009-10, Liberation also had one student in 8th grade.

** Preliminary data available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013, pending confirmation by the Maryland State Department of Education as official enrollment

Liberation is located in the William H. Lemmel building, where ConneXions and the Maryland Academy of Technology and Health Sciences are also located.

Board's Action

By unanimous vote on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendations. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation

- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

The interim CEO recommended closing Liberation due to poor academic performance, the recommended nonrenewal of the operator and the better options available for students within the current school portfolio.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 35 staff members at Liberation, 15 are in positions for delivery of instruction.
- There are 100 students with disabilities at Liberation; no students receive 60 percent of their education with a special educator, outside of the general education classroom.

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- To serve its over-age, under-credited students, an accelerated credit acquisition program is provided.
- Career Research and Development, work-study and internship programming are offered.

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- Student government, chess, literature, yearbook and environment/greening/recycling extracurricular clubs and programs are offered; eligible students can participate in sports with students at ConneXions.
- Students have access to HSA prep and academic counseling.

Student Relocation

Under the City Schools recommendation to close Liberation, students will have a range of school options with available seats to choose from, including transformation schools, high schools that offer a range of academic and career preparation programs, and high schools and programs with credit recovery and acceleration options for over-age, under-credited students. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for Liberation Students

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	100
Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School	75
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	100
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	100
Digital Harbor High School	100
Edmondson-Westside High School	100
Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School	100
Forest Park High School	50

Frederick Douglass High School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	100
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	50
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	100
Patterson High School	100
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	100
The REACH! Partnership School	100
Reginald F. Lewis High School	100
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	10

** Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.*

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences among students at Liberation and at the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from Liberation should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

School Name	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian
Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School	98.6	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Achievement Academy at Harbor City High School	98.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	58.0	30.7	10.1	0.9	0.0
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	98.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1
Digital Harbor High School	73.4	14.8	9.3	1.8	0.4
Edmondson-Westside High School	98.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School	98.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forest Park High School	98.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0
Frederick Douglass High School	97.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.9
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	95.2	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.1
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2.0	0.1
New Era Academy	90.4	2.0	6.5	0.6	0.3
Patterson High School	67.6	10.7	14.0	6.3	0.8
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	96.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1
The REACH! Partnership School	95.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.2
Reginald F. Lewis High School	96.3	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	93.0	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.2

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of Liberation will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools' students are able to choose where they go to high school, closure of Liberation may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

Liberation shares space in the William H. Lemmel Building with ConneXions and the Maryland Academy of Technology and Health Sciences. Preliminary data for the 2013-14 school year show enrollment for the three schools at 491, 359 and 378, respectively.

Type:	Alternative options high school	State-rated capacity:	1,540
Grades served:	9-12	Building utilization rate (2012-13):	78.6%
Address:	2801 N. Dukeland Street Baltimore, MD 21216	Facility Condition Index*:	36.2%
Planning area:	West	Educational Adequacy Score*:	62.8
Date constructed:	1958		
Site size:	12.5 acres		
Building area:	233,336 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building's condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

The Liberation budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year is over \$ 4 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to students through Fair Student Funding will follow students to the schools they select for the 2014-15 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- School community members and City Schools staff discussed the process by which students will enroll in new schools. School community members expressed concern about the limited options available for students who do not have many credits and who are older than their grade-level peers. The process for district office staff to support students in the school through this process was shared.
- Community members also requested that additional wrap-around services be available for students who go through this transition.
- The closure of Liberation will also affect the academic counseling programs offered at the school.

Summary of the Board's Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO's recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Board will close Baltimore Liberation Diploma Plus High School effective June 30, 2014.

BALTIMORE TALENT DEVELOPMENT HIGH SCHOOL #428

(Harlem Park Building)
1500 Harlem Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217

Interim CEO's Recommendations

- Close the Baltimore Talent Development High School program
- Support students' and families' participation in the high school choice process to identify better school options appropriate for each student

Summary

School Data

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• English HSA*	55.2	52.5	53.1	45.1
• Algebra HSA*	64.4	64.4	40.8	33.0
4-year cohort graduation rate	68.1	73.6	76.6	—**
Student attendance rate (%)	87.6	82.5	80.7	87.3
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	63.0	62.3	61.9	59.5

* 12th-grade cumulative pass rate on the Maryland High School Assessment, as a percentage

** Not available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013

- Baltimore Talent Development High School (Baltimore Talent Development) is an innovation high school operated under contract by the Center for the Social Organization of Schools of the Johns Hopkins University. As described in the report resulting from the district's renewal process for charter and operator-run schools, the New and Charter School Advisory Board has recommended that the contract to operate the school not be renewed.
- As described in the renewal report, the school received an overall rating of Not Effective in the area of student achievement.
- Baltimore Talent Development is a low-performing high school, with a 2012-13 HSA pass rate of 45.1 percent in English and 33 percent in algebra. Both the English and algebra pass rates have declined.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
9	132	149	175	205	
10	121	141	124	113	
11	127	109	108	84	
12	110	94	92	106	
Total	490	493	499	508	394

* Preliminary data available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013, pending confirmation by the Maryland State Department of Education as official enrollment

Baltimore Talent Development is located in the Harlem Park building, where Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts is also located. Last year's enrollment of 508 at Baltimore Talent Development, combined with the 426 students enrolled at Augusta Fells Savage Institute, results in a utilization rate of only 59.2 percent for the Harlem Park building

Board's Action

By a vote of five in favor and three opposed on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendation. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

The interim CEO recommended closing Baltimore Talent Development due to poor academic performance, the recommended nonrenewal of the operator and the better options available for students within the current City Schools portfolio.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 66 staff members at Baltimore Talent Development, 31 are in positions for delivery of instruction.
- There are 101 students with disabilities at Baltimore Talent Development; 28 students receive 60 percent of their education from a special educator, outside of the general education classroom. (Among these 28 students, 21 participate in the citywide PAL program.)

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- Career and Technology Education programs are offered in Arts, Media and Communication (interactive media production); Construction and Development (computer-aided drafting and design); and Information Technology (IT networking).

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- Baltimore Talent Development students can participate in student government, National Honor Society, chess, debate, yearbook, media club, science club, technology club, robotics, environment/greening/recycling, choir, performing arts/drama/dance, visual arts and cheerleading.
- Students have access to summer programming, HSA prep and academic counseling.
- Partnerships exist with Center Stage, Afrikan Youth Alchemy, Griot's Eye, Digit All and the Princeton Center for Leadership Training. On-site health services are available.

Student Relocation

Under the City Schools recommendation to close Baltimore Talent Development, students will have a range of school options with available seats, including transformation and high schools. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for Baltimore Talent Development Students

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	100
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	100
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	100
Digital Harbor High School	100
Edmondson-Westside High School	100
Forest Park High School	50
Frederick Douglass High School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	100
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	50
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	100
Patterson High School	100
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	100
The REACH! Partnership School	100
Reginald F. Lewis High School	100
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	10

** Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.*

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences between students at Baltimore Talent Development and the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from Baltimore Talent Development should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

School Name	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian
Baltimore Talent Development High School	98.2	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.2
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	58.0	30.7	10.1	0.9	0.0
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	98.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1
Digital Harbor High School	73.4	14.8	9.3	1.8	0.4
Edmondson-Westside High School	98.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Forest Park High School	98.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0
Frederick Douglass High School	97.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.9
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	95.2	3.4	1.2	0.0	0.1
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2.0	0.1

New Era Academy	90.4	2.0	6.5	0.6	0.3
Patterson High School	67.6	10.7	14.0	6.3	0.8
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	96.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1
The REACH! Partnership School	95.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.2
Reginald F. Lewis High School	96.3	2.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	93.0	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.2

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of Baltimore Talent Development will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools’ students are able to choose where they go to high school, closure of Baltimore Talent Development may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

Baltimore Talent Development shares space in the Harlem Park Building with Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts. Preliminary data for the 2013-14 school year show enrollment for the two schools at 394 and 386, respectively.

Type:	High school	State-rated capacity:	1,578
Grades served:	9-12	Building utilization rate (2012-13):	59.2%
Address:	1500 Harlem Avenue Baltimore, MD 21217	Facility Condition Index*:	57.5%
Planning area:	West	Educational Adequacy Score*:	55.6
Date constructed:	1963		
Site size:	11.9 acres		
Building area:	306,842 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building’s condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally, a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

The Baltimore Talent Development budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year is just under \$4.3 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to students through Fair Student Funding will follow students to the schools they select for the 2014-15 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- Discussion focused on the process whereby students would select new schools and transition to them. Concern was expressed about what schools would be able to offer the same kinds of programming to current Baltimore Talent Development students. Some parents expressed particular concern about the transition of students with special needs.
- Some members of the community expressed concerns about the rubric and data that were used to review the school and asked the district to come to a better understanding of the mission and vision of the school.

- The closure of Baltimore Talent Development High School will also affect partnerships with Center Stage, Afrikan Youth Alchemy, Griot’s Eye, Digit All, the Princeton Center for Leadership Training, and the available on-site health services.

Summary of the Board’s Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO’s recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Board will close Baltimore Talent Development High School effective June 30, 2014.

BLUFORD DREW JEMISON STEM ACADEMY MIDDLE #334

(Rented building not in the district’s portfolio)
1130 N. Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21213

Interim CEO’s Recommendations

- Close the Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Middle (BDJ Middle) program
- Vacate the building in which BDJ Middle is located, for which the district currently pays rent
- Support students’ and families’ participation in the middle school choice process to identify better school options appropriate for each student

Summary

School Data

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• Reading MSA*	67.2	58.1	60.6	51.8
• Math MSA*	54.9	38.3	46.2	40.2
Student attendance rate (%)	95.7	97.3	97.6	97.8
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	66.3	68.3	71.0	64.9

** Percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Maryland School Assessment*

- Until June 2013, BDJ Middle was operated under contract by Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Inc.; in February 2013, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners voted not to renew this operator contract beyond the 2012-13 school year, and in the current 2013-14 school year, BDJ Middle has been run by the district.
- BDJ Middle is a low-performing school, with 51.8 percent of students scoring proficient or advanced in reading on the 2012-13 MSA and 40.2 percent doing so in math. Both reading and math scores have declined since four years ago, as noted in the chart above, including declines following the nonrenewal of the operator’s contract.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
6	108	126	94	113	
7	134	104	106	91	
8	123	128	100	105	
Total	365	358	300	309	260

** Preliminary data available at the time of the Board vote in December 2013, pending confirmation by the Maryland State Department of Education as official enrollment*

- Since 2009-10, enrollment has declined by 15 percent; at present in the current school year, enrollment is below projections.
- Resources are allocated based on student enrollment. Because of the decreasing number of students in each grade at BDJ Middle, the school has limited resources, such that it is difficult for the school to sustain quality programming at each grade level.

Board's Action

By unanimous vote on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendation. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

- The interim CEO recommended closing BDJ Middle due to poor academic performance.
- At the time of the Board vote in February 2013 not to renew the contract of the school's operator for a subsequent term, district staff recommended closure of BDJ Middle at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 35 staff members at BDJ Middle, 20 are in positions that deliver instruction.
- There are 47 students with disabilities at BDJ Middle; 4 students receive 60 percent of their education from a special educator, outside of the general education classroom.
- BDJ Middle serves an all-male student population.

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- Honors classes are offered in all grades, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.
- Gateway to Technology: Project Lead the Way is offered.

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- BDJ Middle students can participate in student government, National Junior Honor Society, National Junior Society of Black Engineers, chess, debate, newspaper/journalism club, entrepreneurship/business, science club, technology club, robotics, choir and instrumental music
- Baseball, basketball, lacrosse, tennis and outdoor track teams are available.
- Students have access to extended-day and summer programming.
- Partnerships exist with Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Johns Hopkins University, Oliver Community Center and Northrop Grumman. An on-site food pantry and health services are available.

Student Relocation

Under the City Schools recommendation to close BDJ Middle, students will have a range of school options with available seats, including transformation schools, elementary/middle schools and middle schools. In addition to options available through the middle school choice process, students who live in a neighborhood with a “zoned” elementary/middle school or an elementary school that feeds another school for middle grades can attend that school. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for BDJ Middle Students

It is anticipated that some students will choose to attend Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West (BDJ West) in the 2014-15 school year. However, at the time the Board considered the recommendation to close BDJ Middle they were also considering a closure recommendation for BDJ West. Hence, although the latter school is not listed in the table below, it will be able to accommodate students now enrolled at BDJ Middle.

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	10
Baltimore I.T. Academy	100
Booker T. Washington Middle School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	75
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	10
Green Street Academy	100
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	20
Stadium School	20
Vanguard Collegiate Middle School	325

** Only schools with 10 or more available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.*

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences between students at BDJ Middle and the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from BDJ Middle should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

School Name	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian
Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Middle	99.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Baltimore I.T. Academy	96.9	2.5	0.3	0.0	0.3
Booker T. Washington Middle School	97.8	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.3
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8.0	8.3	0.3	0.9
Green Street Academy	96.5	2.9	0.3	0.0	0.3
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
NACA Freedom and Democracy Academy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2.0	0.1
New Era Academy	90.4	2.0	6.5	0.6	0.3

Stadium School	99.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0
Vanguard Collegiate Middle School	98.5	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.3

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of BDJ Middle will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools’ students are able to choose where they go to high school, closure of BDJ Middle may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

BDJ Middle is in a city-owned building not in the district’s buildings portfolio.

Type: Middle school
 Grades served: 6-8
 Address: 1130 N. Caroline Street
 Baltimore, MD 21213
 Planning area: East

Financial Considerations

- A savings of roughly \$50,000 in annual rent is anticipated with the closure of BDJ Middle.
- The BDJ Middle budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year is just over \$2 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to students under City Schools’ Fair Student Funding model will follow students to the schools they attend in the 2013-14 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- Discussion was held regarding the data used in the school review process and how City Schools came to a recommendation about the closure of the school.
- The steering committee discussed the process whereby students would select new schools and transition to them, especially for students for whom travel to a new school would require public transportation or longer commuting time. Some parents expressed particular concern about the transition of students with special needs.
- Discussion also centered around the need for clear communication with parents. Participants expressed concern about miscommunication regarding a possible closure in the previous school year when the operator’s contract was under review.
- The closure of Bluford Drew Jemison Middle East will also affect the partnerships with the Madison Square Recreation Center, Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Johns Hopkins University, Oliver Community Center and Northrop Grumman.

Summary of the Board’s Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO’s recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Board will close Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy Middle effective June 30, 2014.

FRIENDSHIP ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY #338

(Canton Building)
801 S. Highland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

Interim CEO's Recommendations

- Close the Friendship Academy of Science and Technology (FAST) program
- Offer current students the opportunity to participate in individualized middle and high school choice sessions and transfer to schools with available seats (see below)

Summary

School Data

Note that FAST had its first graduating class in the 2011-12 school year.

	School Year			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Student achievement:				
• Reading MSA*	67.5**	65.5	50.2	51.8
• Math MSA*	68.6**	49.2	38.9	20.9
• English HSA***	n/a	n/a	72.7	58.4
• Algebra HSA***	n/a	n/a	60.0	52.8
4-year cohort graduation rate	—	—	67.1	87.5
School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school climate survey)	65.8	65.0	61.1	49.1

**Percent of students scoring proficient or advanced*

*** Includes only grades 6 and 7; FAST did not have an 8th-grade class until SY2011*

****12th-grade cumulative pass rate; includes 12th graders who were enrolled and passed the HSA by 12th grade*

- FAST is a transformation school operated by Friendship Public Charter Schools, Inc. On December 17, 2013, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners rejected a recommendation to renew the contract with Friendship Public Charter Schools, Inc., to continue to operate FAST. At the time of that vote, the Board requested that district staff consider making a recommendation to close the school and to prepare a school closure report. For more information on measures used to review this school as part of operator contract renewal, please refer to the renewal report for FAST at the City Schools website, www.baltimorecityschools.org.
- The number of students scoring proficient or advanced on the math portion of the MSA fell 28.3 percentage points between 2011 and 2013. Despite a 1.6 percentage point increase between 2012 and 2013, when comparing 2011 to 2013, the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on MSA reading has also declined, falling 13.7 percentage points. Similarly, 12th-grade cumulative English and Algebra HSA pass rates have also declined, by 14.3 and 7.2 percentage points respectively, from 2012 to 2013 (the only years for which data are available).
- School survey data indicate that FAST students are not satisfied with their school. Further, the school was rated “not effective” in parent, teacher and student satisfaction as evidenced by the school survey and by the 5 Essentials Survey included as part of the contract renewal review process.

Enrollment History

Grade	School Year				
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
6	82	85	101	87	74
7	87	86	94	100	82
8	1	89	95	90	99
9	119	107	144	121	139
10	87	101	94	118	102
11	n/a	72	95	68	89
12	n/a	n/a	64	90	65
Total	376	540	687	674	650

As noted in the table above, total enrollment grew from the 2009-10 to the 2011-12 school year as FAST added grades each year. Enrollment declined slightly from 2011-12 to 2013-14.

Board's Action

By a vote of seven in favor, none opposed and one recusal on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendation. The Board's decision was based on consideration of numerous factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

The interim CEO recommended closing FAST due to poor academic performance, the Board of School Commissioners' vote not to renew the contract with the school's operator and the availability of better options for students.

Educational Programs Affected

- Of the 63 staff members at FAST, 39 are in positions for delivery of instruction.
- There are 109 students with disabilities at FAST; 13 students receive 60 percent or more of their education outside of the general education classroom by a special educator.
- FAST also offers a citywide special education program for students with hearing impairments that currently serves eight students, who receive services both in and out of the general education classroom as determined by their IEPs.

Instruction

- Instruction in English, math, science and social studies meets the Maryland state curriculum assessment standards.
- As at schools across the district, implementation of the Common Core State Standards is being woven into instruction and teachers are attending systemic professional development.
- In 2013-14, the school offers four Advanced Placement courses (Calculus BC, English Language, English Literature and Psychology).

- The school offers Career and Technology Education programming in two pathways: Health and Biosciences (Biomedical Sciences—Project Lead the Way) and Information Technology (IT Networking—Cisco).

Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports

- FAST students can participate in student government, National Academic League, National Honor Society, chess, yearbook, robotics, environment/greening/recycling, gardening, foreign language, visual arts and cheerleading, and interscholastic sports including badminton, baseball, basketball, soccer, track and volleyball.
- FAST students have access to CollegeBound, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling and peer mediation.
- The school has partnerships with Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Walden University, George Washington University, University of Maryland and Girl Scouts of America.

Student Relocation

Under City Schools’ recommendation to close FAST, students will have a range of school options with available seats, including transformation schools, middle schools and high schools. In addition to options available through the middle school choice process, middle grades students who live in a neighborhood with a “zoned” elementary/middle school or an elementary school that feeds another school for middle grades can attend that school. Entrance criteria will be applied for students interested in transferring to schools with eligibility restrictions.

Available Receiving School Options for Middle School Students

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration	10
Baltimore IT Academy	100
Booker T. Washington Middle School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	75
Green Street Academy	100
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy	20
Stadium School	20
Vanguard Collegiate Middle School	100

** Only schools with more than 10 available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.*

Available Receiving School Options for High School Students

	Min. Available Seats*
Academy for College and Career Exploration High	100
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	100
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	100
Digital Harbor High School	100
Edmondson-Westside High School	100
Forest Park High School	50
Frederick Douglass High School	100
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	100
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	100
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	100
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	100
National Academy Foundation	100
New Era Academy High	100
Patterson High School	100
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	100
Reginald F. Lewis High School	100
The REACH! Partnership School	100
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	10

* Only schools with more than 10 available seats are listed. All seat counts are estimates.

Racial Composition

There are no significant racial or ethnic differences between students at FAST and the proposed receiving schools. Absorbing students from FAST should not substantially affect the racial composition of the receiving schools.

School Name	Percentage of Students				
	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	American Indian
Friendship Academy of Science and Technology	81.5	8	8.3	0.3	0.9
Academy for College and Career Exploration	91.3	7.3	0.8	0.3	0.2
Baltimore IT Academy	96.9	2.5	0.3	0	0.3
Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove	58	30.7	10.1	0.9	0
Booker T. Washington Middle School	97.8	1.4	0.6	0	0.3
Carver Vocational-Technical High School	98.2	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.1
Digital Harbor High School	73.4	14.8	9.3	1.8	0.4
Edmondson-Westside High School	98.5	1.0	0.2	0	0.1
Forest Park High School	98.2	0	1.8	0	0
Frederick Douglass High School	97.6	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4
Friendship Academy of Engineering and Technology	96.9	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5
Green Street Academy	96.5	2.9	0.3	0	0.3
KASA (Knowledge and Success Academy)	92.2	4.8	1.1	1.3	0.2
Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School	95.2	3.4	1.2	0	0.1
NACA Freedom and Democracy II	98.9	0.4	0.4	0	0.4
National Academy Foundation	87.7	6.1	1.9	2	0.1
New Era Academy	90.4	2	6.5	0.6	0.3
Patterson High School	67.6	10.7	14.0	6.3	0.8
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School	96.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.1

Reginald F. Lewis High School	96.3	2.4	0.7	0	0.2
The REACH! Partnership School	95.9	2.9	0.2	0.8	0.2
Stadium School Middle	99.3	0	0.4	0.4	0
Vanguard Collegiate Middle	98.5	0	0.6	0.6	0.3
Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy	93.0	6.0	0.6	0.2	0.2

Student Transportation Considerations

- City Schools provides transportation assistance for secondary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school. Transportation assistance for secondary students is in the form of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) student swipe passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students affected by the closure of FAST will be provided MTA student swipe passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Because City Schools’ students are able to choose where they go to middle or high school, closure of FAST may result in some additional students needing MTA services. However, the cost to the district of MTA transportation is not expected to change substantially as a result of the closure.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services as required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Facility Data

Type:	Transformation middle/high school	State-rated capacity:	1,829
Grades served:	6-12	Building utilization rate:	70.0%
Address:	801 S. Highland Avenue Baltimore, MD 21202	Facility Condition Index*:	77.7%
Planning area:	Southeast	Educational Adequacy Score*:	55.4
Date constructed:	1926		
Site size:	2.4 acres		
Building area:	104,041 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building’s condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally, a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

FAST’s budget is over \$6 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars are linked to students through Fair Student Funding will follow students to the schools they select for the 2014-15 school year.

Community Feedback and Impact

- School community members asked City Schools to consider keeping the school open and identifying another operator for the school or operating the school as a traditional school.
- Representatives from the school expressed concern about the other high school options in the area for English language learners who attend the school and recommended additional and targeted communication about this process to families of these students.
- Discussion focused on the process whereby students would select new schools and transition to them.
- The closure of Friendship Academy of Science and Technology will also affect the partnerships with Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Walden University, George Washington University, University of Maryland and Girl Scouts of America.

Summary of the Board’s Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO’s recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Board will close Friendship Academy of Science and Technology effective June 30, 2014.

CORPS BUILDING

5000 Gwynn Oak
Baltimore, MD 21207

Interim CEO's Recommendation

Surplus the CORPS building out of the Baltimore City Public Schools building portfolio, returning it to the City of Baltimore for disposition

Board's Action

By a unanimous vote on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendation. The Board's decision was based on consideration of several factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

- The program housed in the CORPS building, Baltimore CORPS, was closed effective June 2013.
- Returning the CORPS building to the City of Baltimore for disposition will reduce excess district building capacity at the secondary level, thereby increasing the districtwide utilization rate and lowering maintenance costs.

Educational Programs Affected

Because Baltimore CORPS was closed effective June 2013, there are no educational programs affected.

Student Relocation, Transportation Considerations and Racial Composition

Because Baltimore CORPS was closed effective June 2013, there are no students to be relocated. As a result there are no transportation implications, racial composition data or available receiving school options to be considered.

Facility Data

Type:	Modular	State-rated capacity:	n/a (modular)
Grades served:	n/a	Building utilization rate:	n/a
Address:	5000 Gwynn Oak Baltimore, MD 21207	Facility Condition Index*:	n/a
Planning area:	Northwest	Educational Adequacy Score*:	n/a
Date constructed:	n/a		
Site size:	0.63 acres		
Building area:	10,206 sq. ft.		

* These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The CORPS building was not reviewed for inclusion in the report.

Financial Considerations

- There is currently \$25,587 in debt from the 2011 QSCB associated with the CORPS building. There is no outstanding state debt on this building.
- While the CORPS building currently sits vacant, City Schools is responsible for the minimal cost of utilities associated with the building.
- Once the CORPS building has been returned to the City of Baltimore for disposition, the city will bear all costs associated with operation of the building.

Community Feedback and Impact

The CORPS building has been vacant since June 2013. Any future use of the building will be determined by the City of Baltimore.

Summary of the Board's Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO's recommendations, written testimony of stakeholders, the closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Board will surplus the CORPS building to the City of Baltimore.

LAURENCE G. PAQUIN BUILDING

2200 Sinclair Lane
Baltimore, MD 21213

Interim CEO's Recommendation

Surplus the Laurence G. Paquin building ("Paquin building") out of the Baltimore City Public Schools building portfolio, returning it to the City of Baltimore for disposition

Board's Action

By a unanimous vote on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, the Board adopted the interim CEO's recommendation. The Board's decision was based on consideration of several factors, including the following:

- Student enrollment trends
- Age or condition of school buildings
- Transportation
- Educational programs
- Racial composition of student body
- Financial considerations
- Student relocation
- Impact on community in geographic attendance area for school proposed to be closed and school, or schools, to which students will be relocating

Rationale

- The school formerly housed in the Paquin building, Baltimore Rising Star Academy, was closed effective June 2013. (To review the final closure decision on Baltimore Rising Star Academy, please visit www.baltimorecityschools.org.)
- Returning the Paquin building to the City of Baltimore for disposition will reduce excess district building capacity at the secondary level, thereby increasing the districtwide utilization rate and lowering maintenance costs.

Educational Programs Affected

Because Baltimore Rising Star Academy was closed effective June 2013, there are no educational programs affected.

Student Relocation, Transportation Considerations and Racial Composition

Because Baltimore Rising Star Academy was closed effective June 2013, there are no students to be relocated. As a result there are no transportation implications, racial composition data or available receiving school options to be considered.

Facility Data

Type:	Middle school building	State-rated capacity:	425
Grades served:	n/a	Building utilization rate:	n/a
Address:	2200 Sinclair Lane Baltimore, MD 21213	Facility Condition Index*:	65.7%
Planning area:	East	Educational Adequacy Score*:	57.1
Date constructed:	1975		
Site size:	2.3 acres		
Building area:	65,666 sq. ft.		

** These two measures are reported in the 2012 State of School Facilities report commissioned from Jacobs Project Management. The Facility Condition Index is an indicator of the building's condition derived by comparing the cost of renovating the existing building and the cost of constructing a new building of the same size; generally, a figure higher than 75% suggests new construction should be considered. An Educational Adequacy Score below 80 indicates that a building does not meet the standard for supporting excellent teaching and learning.*

Financial Considerations

- There is currently \$124,000 in City Schools debt associated with the Paquin building. The State Treasurer's Office reports outstanding state debt of \$109,829.79. However, this building closure does not present any federal tax implications.
- Because the Paquin building is currently in use by the City of Baltimore through a right of entry agreement, City Schools is not responsible for utilities costs (e.g., telephone, electricity, water).
- Once the Paquin building has been returned for disposition to the City of Baltimore, the city will bear all costs associated with operation of the building.

Community Feedback and Impact

- The City of Baltimore has operated a shelter in the Paquin building since July 2013.
- Any future use of the building will be determined by the city.

Summary of the Board's Final Decision

Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the interim CEO's recommendations, written testimony of stakeholders, the school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Board will surplus the Laurence G. Paquin building to the City of Baltimore.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

An appeal may be taken to the Maryland State Board of Education within 30 calendar days of this written decision of the Board. The Board issued this decision on March 25, 2014. The notice of appeal should be sent to: Office of the Attorney General, Maryland State Department of Education, Attn: Jackie La Fiandra/State Board Appeals, 200 St. Paul Place, 19th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

3/25/2014

Date



Tisha Edwards
Interim Chief Executive Officer and
Secretary, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners

3/25/2014

Date



Shanaysha Sauls, Ph.D.
Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners