On October 22, 2020, the Ethics Panel of Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners received a request for an expedited advisory opinion from [name], the district’s director of [position]. Although, [name] has disclosed membership on the Board at [school], this request focuses on [response to an invitation] received to serve as a subcommittee chair of the Facilities Committee.

[School], a contract school of the District, is operated by Johns Hopkins University School of Education in conjunction with Morgan State University. Johns Hopkins University is listed as a vendor doing business with City Schools.

If [name] accepts the invitation to serve as committee chair of the Facilities Committee, [name] will be in violation of Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners Code of Ethics Section III (C)(1)(a)(ii)(b) "...an official may not participate in: ii) Any matter in which any of the following is a party: b) A business entity for which the official or a qualified relative of the official is an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee."

[name] should make every effort to align activities in this matter to be in accordance with the Ethics Policy.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as presented. The Panel expresses no opinion as to matters that may exist now or in the future that have not been presented. Panel decisions are based on a case-by-case examination of the relevant factual information and applicable regulations.

Date: November 25, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Domanic A. Smith, M.Div., CHM
Chair, Baltimore City Public Schools Ethics Panel