School Closures and Building Surplusing
Addendum – Lake Clifton Facility

Addendum approved on March 26, 2019, by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; decision issued on April 5, 2019.
Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) is committed to ensuring that students at all grade levels and in all areas of the city have access to the programs, opportunities, and supports they need to advance toward high school graduation and success in college and career. Each year, City Schools conducts a review of its school portfolio to ensure that a range of school options exists in every area of the city and that all schools are doing the best job possible of positioning students to succeed. This annual review includes consideration of academic performance, the renewal process for charter and operator-run schools, and ongoing evaluation of school buildings to guide renovation and replacement under the 21st Century School Buildings Plan.

In November 2018, following the annual school portfolio review conducted in summer and fall 2018, the district recommended closing one school at the end of the 2018-19 school year and one school at the end of the 2019-20 school year. In addition, the district recommended that four school buildings be “surplused” out of the district’s buildings portfolio and returned to the City of Baltimore – three in 2019 and one in 2020.

In compliance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), the decision to close schools and to dispose of school buildings requires time and community input. Community engagement is a pillar of City Schools’ work, and the district therefore urged the public to provide input to inform the decision-making process and to help make sure necessary steps were being taken to meet the needs of students, families, and school communities.

This addendum to the original report presents the details of the recommended school building surplussing of the Lake Clifton Building; the public engagement process; and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners’ (the Board’s) decisions regarding this recommendation.

Summary of the Recommendation Approved March 26, 2019

- The Lake Clifton building was originally recommended for surplussing in summer 2019. The recommendation was revised to have the surplussing take effect December 31, 2019, to allow City Schools to use the facility, athletic fields, and amenities for fall athletics. The REACH! Partnership School will move into the newly renovated Fairmount-Harford building in summer 2019.

Summary of the Recommendations Approved January 8, 2019

- The original recommendation was to close Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School in 2019 and surplus the building in 2019. Students in the elementary grades were to be zoned to nearby Edgecombe Circle Elementary School, while students in the middle grades could attend Pimlico Elementary/Middle School or participate in a school choice process to identify a new school for the 2019-20 school year. That recommendation was revised to delay for a year, closure of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School in summer 2020 and surplus of the building to the City of Baltimore in 2020, with the same provisions as above for the 2020-21 school year.
- In the 2017-18 portfolio process, the Board voted to close one of two facilities in the Sandtown community, and to collaborate with the community on a decision as to which facility to close and the grade configuration of a new combined school program. The
recommendation this year was to close Gilmor Elementary School, effective summer 2019, and surplus the building to the City of Baltimore in 2019. Students will be zoned to William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School; middle grades students can also participate in a school choice process to identify a new school for the 2019-20 school year.

- The Dr. Roland N. Patterson building was recommended to be surplused to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019, as it will no longer house a school program and is not required for educational use.

Public Engagement

Beginning at a public meeting on November 13, 2018, when the Board received the district’s recommendations on school closures and building surplusing, the district encouraged the public to provide input to inform decision making 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 schools recommended for closure and/or surplus. These individual meetings, held between November 15 and 27, 2018, 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 or the surplusing of school buildings.

A formal, state-mandated public hearing on the recommendations was held on December 11, 2018, and a special Board session to hear public feedback was held on December 18, 2018. Both meetings were held at City Schools’ district office (200 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21202); both were broadcast on the district’s cable television station (Education Channel 77, available through the Comcast cable service in Baltimore City) and streamed live on the Internet.

Prior to the community meetings at each school, City Schools released a report with its recommendations. Copies were provided to members of the Board and uploaded to the City Schools website and the websites of affected schools. The Mayor of Baltimore, along with city and state elected officials representing the districts of each affected school, were contacted about the recommendations. A printed copy of the report was provided to affected schools to be available for review by the public. Copies of the report were available upon request from the Board Office and the district’s Engagement Department.

In addition to the community meetings and the public hearings, school-based steering committees were created at each school proposed for closure. Each of the steering committees met two times and was charged with providing written comments to City Schools’ Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and staff regarding the proposed closure or relocation of the steering committee’s school. Members of the steering committees will continue to be engaged in the schools’ transitions in the coming months.

The Board also accepted written comment or data on the proposed closures and surplusing until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 4, 2019. Stakeholders were advised to send their comments to the Board via postal or electronic mail.
Notice

To inform the community about the portfolio review process and to encourage feedback on its recommendations, City Schools employed a variety of communication methods. As noted above, the report with initial recommendations that was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 13, 2018, was also posted on City Schools’ website and individual school websites, with a link to the document provided on homepages. The Board meeting itself was televised (on Education Channel 77) and streamed online.

Formal notice providing detailed information about the December 11 public hearing and December 18 special Board session were advertised in the November 14, 2018, editions of two local newspapers, The Baltimore Sun and The Daily Record. The notice also included information about submitting written comment.

Copies of the formal notice and letters notifying families of the proposed school closures or surplusing, along with information about school-based meetings and opportunity to provide written feedback, were sent home with students more than two weeks prior to the December 11 public hearing. The notice was also available in the written recommendations report, which was made available online and at affected schools, as noted above. Finally, automated telephone calls were made to families at all schools included in the recommendations to notify them of the special session and public hearing; email messages were sent to families for whom City Schools had working email addresses; information was provided via recorded message on the district’s automated telephone directory system; and notice was shared with steering committee members.

The postponement of the vote to return the Lake Clifton facility to the City of Baltimore was communicated to the community via updates to the website, letters sent home to the community, and meetings held by City Schools’ 21st-Century School Buildings Department.

Recommendations Regarding Closures and Building Surplusing

Following are recommendations presented to the Board at its public meeting on November 13, 2018, as part of the annual school portfolio review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary/Middle School</td>
<td>Original recommendation: Close in June 2019; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilmor Elementary School</td>
<td>Close in summer 2019; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Roland N. Patterson building</td>
<td>Surplus in summer 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Clifton building</td>
<td>Surplus in summer 2019 (vote postponed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that the recommendation was revised during further engagement to close in June 2020 and surplus to the City of Baltimore in summer 2020
Board Vote

On January 8, 2019, beginning at 5:00 p.m., the Board held a public meeting at which it voted on the portfolio review recommendations. In accordance with standard procedures, this meeting was televised on Education Channel 77 and was streamed online in real time. On March 26, 2019, beginning at 5:00 p.m. the Board voted on the Lake Clifton facility recommendation at a public meeting that was also televised on Education Channel 77 and streamed online in real time.

Code of Maryland Regulations

As required by COMAR, the Board considered these factors when voting on whether the recommended schools should be closed and the recommended buildings should be surplus 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 would relocate

The Vote

Eight of the Board’s nine voting members were in attendance at the March 26, 2019, meeting. The Board voted on the recommendations as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Board Action</th>
<th>Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Clifton building</td>
<td>Surplus in summer 2019</td>
<td>Adopted (as part of the consent agenda)</td>
<td>8-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Revised recommendation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surplus building to the City of Baltimore, December 31, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation to Surplus Building to the City of Baltimore

Lake Clifton building
2801/2815 Saint Lo Drive
Baltimore, MD 21213

Recommendation
- Surplus the Lake Clifton building to the City of Baltimore effective December 31, 2019.

Opportunities
- Reduce excess district building capacity, thereby increasing the districtwide utilization rate and lowering maintenance costs.

Reasons for Closure
- City Schools recommends surplusing the Lake Clifton building because it will be vacant as of summer 2019, once relocation of The REACH! Partnership School to the newly renovated Fairmount-Harford building is complete. The district no longer requires the building for educational use.

Board Action
On March 26, 2019, the Board voted in favor of the CEO’s recommendation to surplus the Lake Clifton building as of December 31, 2019.

Student Enrollment Trends
- Because The REACH! Partnership School is moving to the Fairmount-Harford building across the park from the Lake Clifton facility, the surplus of the facility has no impact on enrollment trends.

Educational Programs Affected
- Because The REACH! Partnership School has already been approved for relocation to the Fairmount-Harford building and will continue to operate, there are no educational programs affected.

Student Relocation
- Because The REACH! Partnership School has already been approved for relocation to the Fairmount-Harford building located in the same community, the recommendation to surplus the Lake Clifton building does not create new student relocation considerations. As a result, there are no transportation implications, racial composition data, or available receiving school options to be considered.

Facility Data

| Type: Traditional high-school          | State-rated capacity: 2,540 |
| Grades served: 9-12                    | Building utilization rate 21% (2018-19) |
| Address: 2801/2815 St. Lo Drive, 21213 | Facility Condition Index*: 56% |
| Planning area: NE C                     | Educational Adequacy Score*: 60 |
| Date constructed: 1971                  |                             |
| Site size: 44.90 acres                  |                             |
| Building area: 485,622 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

- Once the Lake Clifton building has been returned to the City of Baltimore for disposition, the district will eliminate expenses associated with maintaining this large building in a poor state of repair.

Community Feedback and Input and District Response

- Community members shared concerns about what would happen to the Lake Clifton building once it is surplused and wanted clarity on the process the City of Baltimore uses to determine usage of the facility. Staff members shared that the building would be under the control of the City of Baltimore once City Schools has surplused it and the city manages the process for determining how the space will be used.
- Community members shared concerns regarding ensuring the high school had access to outdoor fields for athletics. City Schools shared proposals for addressing the concerns and plans to work with the City of Baltimore and the Department of Recreation and Parks on using the fields and amenities next to Lake Clifton for fall sports while working on a long-term plan for ensuring adequate field space for athletics for the future.

Summary of the Board’s Final Decision

- Based on the factors set forth herein, consideration of the CEO’s recommendations, written and oral testimony of stakeholders, the portfolio review and school closure recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Lake Clifton building will be surplused effective December 31, 2019.

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 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The Board issued this decision on April 5, 2019. The 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.

Date: April 5, 2019

Sonja Brookins Santelises, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public School System, and Secretary, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners