

# BALTIMORE CITY --- PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **School Closures and Building Surpluses**

*Approved on January 8, 2019, by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. Decision issued on February 7, 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 Program.

In November 2018, following the annual school portfolio review conducted in summer and fall 2018, the district recommended closing two schools at the end of the 2018-19 school year; this recommendation was revised in December 2018 to delay one school closing to 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.

The following report presents the details of the recommended school closures and building surpluses; the public engagement process; and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners’ (the Board’s) decisions regarding the recommendations.

## **Summary of the Recommendations**

### *Closures with building surplus*

- The original recommendation was to close Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School in summer 2019 and to surplus the building in summer 2019. Students in the elementary grades were to be zoned to nearby Edgcombe 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. Subsequently, that recommendation was revised to delay closing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School until summer 2020 and to surplus the building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2020, with the same provisions for students’ schools for 2020-21 as noted above.
- In the 2017-18 portfolio review process, the Board voted to close one of two elementary school facilities in the Sandtown community, and to collaborate with the community on decisions regarding which facility to close and to determine the grade configuration of the new combined program. Following that process, the recommendation this year was to close Gilmore Elementary School effective summer 2019 and to surplus the building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019. Students will be zoned to William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School.

### *Additional building surplus*

- The recommendation was made to surplus the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019, as it will no longer house a school program after the relocation of KIPP Harmony Academy (a charter school) to a new building and is not required for educational use.
- Additionally, the Lake Clifton building was recommended for surplus in summer 2019. That vote was postponed until spring 2019 so that City Schools and the City of Baltimore can work out a plan for athletic fields for the REACH! Partnership School, which will be moving out of the Lake Clifton building and into the newly renovated Fairmount-Harford building in summer 2019.

### **Public Engagement**

Beginning at a public meeting on November 13, 2018, when the Board received the district's recommendations on school closures and building surpluses, 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.

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 surplus 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 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 surpluses 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 was 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 surpluses, 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.

**Recommendations Regarding Closures and Building Surpluses**

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

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

\*Note that the recommendation was revised during further engagement to close in summer 2020, with building 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 special 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.

### *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*

All of the Board's nine voting members were in attendance at the January 8, 2019, meeting. The Board voted on the recommendations as follows.

School	Recommendation	Board Action	Vote
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary/Middle School	<b>Original recommendation:</b> Close in summer 2019; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019 <b>Revised recommendation:</b> Close in summer 2020; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2020	Adopted	9-0
Gilmor Elementary School	Close in summer 2019; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019	Adopted	9-0
Dr. Roland N. Patterson building	Surplus in summer 2019	Adopted	9-0
Lake Clifton building	Surplus in summer 2019	Vote postponed	n/a

Specific details regarding the recommendations, the Board’s decisions, and supporting rationale follow.

**Closures (with building surpluses where applicable)**

***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School #254***  
 3750 Greenspring Avenue  
 Baltimore, MD 21211

**Summary**

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School is experiencing multiple challenges: a facility in extremely poor condition, low enrollment, and low academic performance.
- The facility’s site on a hill has contributed to issues including leaks and flooding. In addition, the building needs multiple systems replaced. Out of over 150 buildings in the district’s portfolio, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., building is one of the most expensive to maintain due to needed repairs; it is 7th from the top of the repair ticket list that includes buildings of much larger size.
- The site’s slope makes access and long-term repairs difficult.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has a population of fewer than 300 students. Its middle grades program is one of the eight smallest in the district, with fewer than 100 students.
- Nearby Edgcombe Circle Elementary School is under-enrolled with a population just over 200 students. It has space in its main building and an unoccupied attached modular and portable building.
- Combining these two small elementary programs into one building would move Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., students to a less troubled facility and provide more resources to all students through per-pupil funding.

**School Data**

The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment, aligned to Maryland’s College and Career-Ready Standards, is administered in both Math and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3-8. Values on PARCC tests represent percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations (score of 4 or 5). Mean scale scores are displayed in aggregate for each available year. These results are based on all students who tested and received a valid scale score.

PARCC Results	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	School	District	School	District	School	District
<b>Math (grades 3–5), percentage of students at proficiency level 4/5</b>	5.6%	15.1%	4.8%	15.6%	8.6%	16.9%
<b>Math (grades 3–5), mean scale score</b>	697.9	715.2	708.8	715.9	707.1	715.9
<b>ELA (grades 3–5), percentage of students at proficiency level 4/5</b>	5.6%	12.7%	6.0%	14.2%	5.4%	16.5%

<b>ELA (grades 3–5), mean scale score</b>	698.2	711.5	701.9	712.4	703.7	713.9
<b>Math (grades 6–8), percentage of students at proficiency level 4/5</b>	1.0%	8.2%	0.9%	8.6%	3.3%	10.9%
<b>Math (grades 6–8), mean scale score</b>	699.0	708.0	696.3	707.5	702.5	710.5
<b>ELA (grades 6–8), percentage of students at proficiency level 4/5</b>	2.1%	14.8%	8.3%	16.2%	8.7%	18.8%
<b>ELA (grades 6–8), mean scale score</b>	709.5	715.2	709.8	715.9	710.2	717.8

<b>School Climate</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
<b>Student attendance rate (%)</b>	89.3%	89.5%	89.7%	87.4%	89.1%
<b>School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school survey)</b>	54.2%	59.7%	59.5%	59.7%	N/A*

Attendance rates are calculated by dividing the total number of days of attendance by the total number of days enrolled during the entire school year using the official Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) end-of-year attendance file.

\* Student and staff surveys were not administered to the district in 2017-18 due to MSDE's intended implementation of their statewide climate survey. MSDE is now anticipating the administration of this survey in the 2018-19 school year.

### Enrollment History

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Pre-k	40	26	24	30	34
K	47	34	27	24	25
1	30	35	34	28	28
2	40	25	38	41	26
3	27	35	24	29	35
4	34	22	36	28	27
5	20	35	19	30	25
6	33	27	40	34	26
7	27	38	32	32	29
8	27	30	40	30	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>290</b>

Total enrollment counts reflect the MSDE official enrollment file, which includes students enrolled on September 30 each year. This file is verified by MSDE prior to becoming the official enrollment count for the year.

### Recommendations

- **Original recommendation:**  
Close in summer 2019; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019
- **Revised recommendation:**  
Close in summer 2020; surplus building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2020
- Rezone elementary grades students to Edgecombe Circle Elementary School.

- Offer current middle grades students the opportunity to attend Pimlico Elementary/Middle School, a building fully renovated and expanded under the district's 21st Century School Buildings Program.

### **Opportunities**

- Students would attend school facilities with fewer concerns.
- Students' chances for success would be improved by enabling them to attend schools with sufficient per-pupil funding to sustain rich, robust, and varied educational programs.
- Middle grades students will be able to attend the newly renovated 21<sup>st</sup>-century building and program of Pimlico Elementary/Middle School.

### **Reasons for Closure**

- The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., facility is in poor condition and its location on a slope makes access and repair difficult.
- City Schools allocates resources to schools based on student enrollment. Because of its small number of students, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School has limited resources to provide quality programming and does not have sufficient enrollment for long-term sustainability.

### **Board Action**

On January 8, 2019, the Board voted in favor of the CEO's revised recommendation to close Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School as of summer 2020 and to surplus the building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2020. The Board's decision gave consideration to the impact of the closing on the following factors:

- 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

### **Educational Programs Affected**

- Of the 37 staff members at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School, 23 are in positions for delivery of instruction.
- There are 43 students with disabilities at the school; 27 students receive 80% or more of their education inside the general education classroom, 5 students receive 40–79% of their education inside the general education classroom, and 11 students receive less than 40% of their education inside the general education classroom.\*
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. currently houses two pre-k classrooms.

*\*Sources: Unofficial September 30<sup>th</sup> Child Count as of November 29, 2018. These numbers are expected to change as a result of the MSDE data-cleansing process; final data anticipated by February 2019. Students enrolled in LRE W (4) are not included in the total.*

*Instruction*

City Schools elementary and elementary/middle school programs use district curricula aligned to the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards including Wit and Wisdom, Eureka, and SABES. Teachers regularly participate in professional learning opportunities that district staff provide. Additionally, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., program offers the following:

- Gifted and advanced learning programming
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports pilot site
- Achievement Network coached site
- Intensive learning site for literacy under City Schools’ blueprint for success

*Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports*

- New-Fit Sports (flag football, volleyball, cheer squad, soccer), after-school clubs sponsored by teachers, mentoring supports

**Student Relocation**

- Under the recommendation to close Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School, elementary students would be zoned to Edgecombe Circle Elementary School.
- Middle grades students will be automatically enrolled to attend Pimlico Elementary/Middle School and can also choose from a range of other school options with available seats, including transformation schools, charter schools, and middle schools and middle grades programs through the middle school choice process.

**Racial Composition**

- The racial compositions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School, Edgecombe Circle Elementary School, and Pimlico Elementary/Middle School are similar.

2017-18 School Year	% African American	% White	% Hispanic	% Asian	% American Indian	% Pacific Islander
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary/Middle School	97.4	1.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3
Edgecombe Circle Elementary School	95.6	1.4	2.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Pimlico Elementary/Middle School	95.9	1.6	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

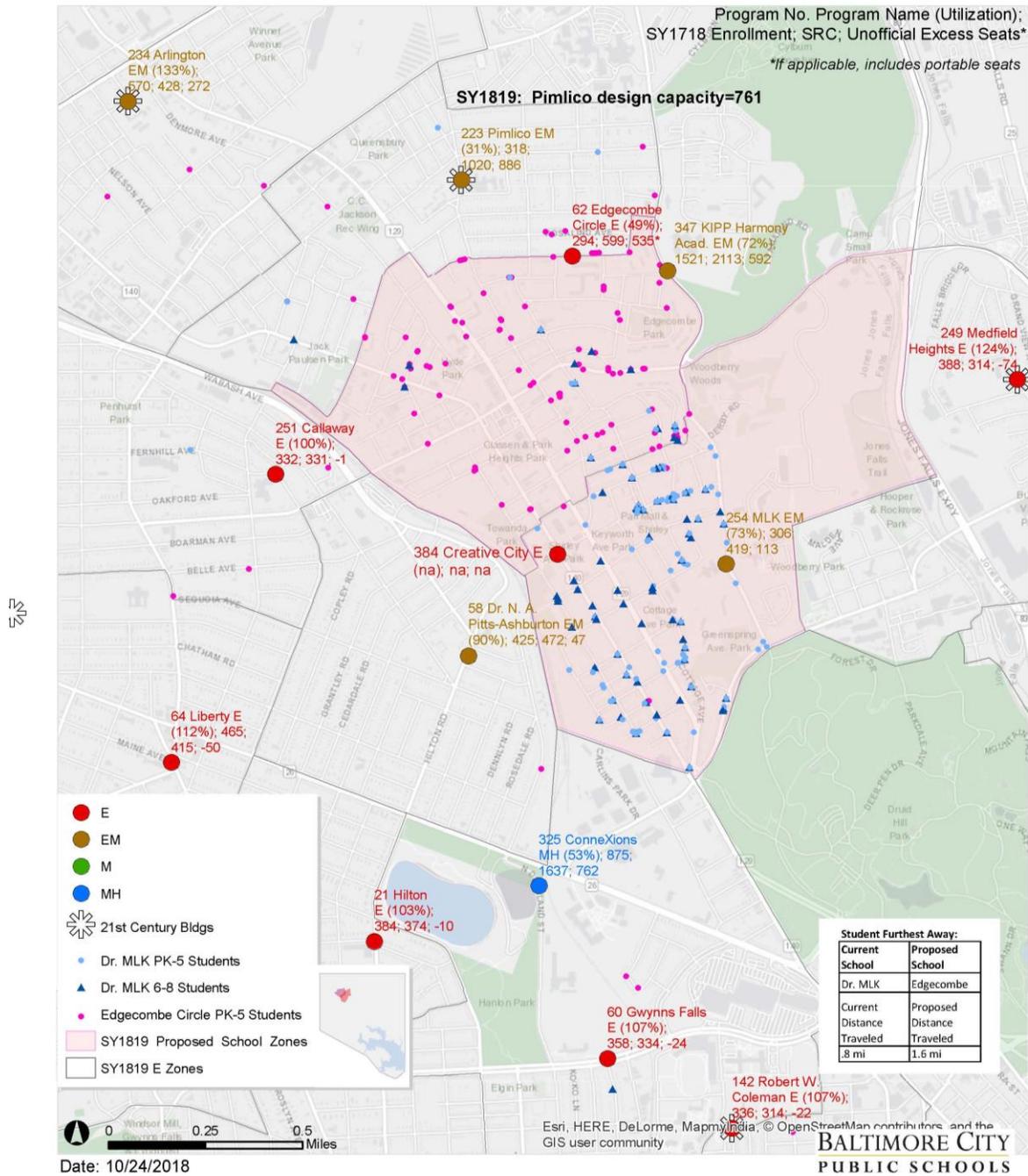
*Table has been adjusted to align with MSDE race and ethnicity categories. Previous table combined Asian and Pacific Islander.”*

**Student Transportation Considerations**

- City Schools provides yellow bus service for elementary students who live more than 1 mile from their zoned school.
- 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) passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, may be provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.

- Students affected by the closure of middle grades at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School will be provided MTA passes to the various schools they attend, if those schools are 1.5 miles or more from their homes.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services if required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

*Distribution of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary/Middle School Students*



## Facility Data

Type: Traditional elementary/middle school  
Grades served: pre-k -8  
Address: 3750 Greenspring Avenue, 21211  
Planning area: NW A  
Date constructed: 1973  
Site size: 2.32 acres  
Building area: 100,100 sq. ft.

State-rated capacity: 419  
Building utilization rate\*: 69% (2018-19)  
Facility Condition Index\*\*\*: 68%  
Educational Adequacy Score\*\*\*: 60

*\* Based on unofficial 2018-19 student data*

*\*\* 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

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary/Middle School's budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year is approximately \$2.3 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to schools through the Fair Student Funding model will follow students to the schools they attend in the 2020-21 school year.

## Community Feedback and Input, and District Response

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., community members asked how the *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, name and what it stands for could be preserved. Staff responded that there is an official renaming process that can be initiated by schools/communities and that this work could be part of the community planning process that will happen prior to closure of the school. Additionally, the Board expressed a commitment to ensuring that the legacy of the school and Dr. King be maintained in some fashion in the district's portfolio of schools.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., community members expressed concerns that successful elementary grades programming at Dr. King be maintained at Edgecombe Circle Elementary School. Staff shared that during the planning year, district staff will work with school-based staff and the broader community to determine what aspects of both programs need to be retained in the merged school. This process will include an evaluation of programming, resources, and other supports to ensure the needs of the newly combined school are met.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., community members expressed concerns about combining middle grades students from two different communities and about adding more students to Pimlico for the 2019-20 school year, when students from Arlington Elementary/Middle School are also transitioning to Pimlico in that upcoming year. In part because of these concerns, the CEO changed her recommendation to closing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School in summer 2020, with students relocating beginning in the 2020-21 school year. This longer time allows a more in-depth process to bring school communities together and to address concerns related to climate and culture, safety, and academic planning for the newly combined school, in addition to providing more time for a similar process at Pimlico for middle grades students. This process will include combined events, focus groups, and other activities.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., community members expressed concerns about distance and safe travel for students to the Edgecombe Circle building. Staff members shared that the Pupil

Transportation Department will provide transportation for elementary grades students who live more than a mile from the Edgecombe Circle building. In addition, City Schools will work with school police and the City of Baltimore on plans for safe travel for students.

### **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, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary/Middle School will close effective summer 2020. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., building will be surplus to the City of Baltimore in summer 2020.

### ***Gilmor Elementary School #107***

1311 N. Gilmor Street  
Baltimore, MD 21217

### **Summary**

- Gilmor Elementary School is a small school located in the Sandtown neighborhood of West Baltimore serving students in pre-k through grade 5. Gilmor is located near William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School, also a small school, which serves pre-k through 8.
- Both schools have had low enrollment for a number of years and do not have sufficient enrollment to provide robust programming to students.
- The Board considered a recommendation in 2017-18 to close William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School. After receiving community feedback, the Board instead voted to have staff engage the community in a process to select one of the two Sandtown schools to close in summer 2019, at the end of the 2018-19 school year. After a seven-month planning process, community planning team members selected Gilmor Elementary School as the facility to close.
- Pinderhughes and Gilmor are located less than ½ mile from each other. Combining these two small programs into one building will provide more resources to students through per-pupil funding.

### **School Data**

The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment, aligned to Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards, is administered in both Math and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3-8. Values on PARCC tests represent percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations (score of 4 or 5). Mean scale scores are displayed in aggregate for each available year. These results are based on all students who tested and received a valid scale score.

PARCC Results	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	School	District	School	District	School	District
<b>Math (grades 3–5), percentage of students at proficiency level 4/5</b>	6.6%	15.1%	2.1%	15.6%	3.9%	16.9%
<b>Math (grades 3–5), mean scale score</b>	702.6	715.2	692.1	715.9	701.0	715.9
<b>ELA (grades 3–5), percentage of students at proficiency level 4/5</b>	2.8%	12.7%	1.1%	14.2%	2.0%	16.5%
<b>ELA (grades 3–5), mean scale score</b>	696.5	711.5	694.1	712.4	699.1	713.9

School Climate	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Student attendance rate (%)</b>	89.1%	90.1%	87.2%	84.3%	84.9%
<b>School climate (as indicated by % positive student responses on annual school survey)</b>	65.5%	58.2%	73.7	63.5	N/A*

Attendance rates are calculated by dividing the total number of days of attendance by the total number of days enrolled during the entire school year using the official Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) end-of-year attendance file.

\* Student and staff surveys were not administered to the district in 2017-18 due to MSDE's intended implementation of their statewide climate survey. MSDE now anticipates administration of this survey in the 2018-19 school year.

## Enrollment History

Grade	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Pre-K	46	34	42	31	28
K	56	35	38	46	41
1	57	49	38	44	49
2	61	43	41	35	38
3	43	50	42	44	27
4	41	34	37	31	43
5	38	32	20	33	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>256</b>

Total enrollment counts reflect the MSDE official enrollment file, which includes students enrolled on September 30 each year. This file is verified by MSDE prior to becoming the official enrollment count for the year.

## Recommendations

- Close Gilmor Elementary School in summer 2019.
- Surplus the Gilmor building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019.
- Rezone students from Gilmor to William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School.

## Opportunities

- Improve students' chances for success by enabling them to attend a school with sufficient student funding to sustain rich, robust, and varied educational programs.

- A pre-k to grade 8 configuration for the combined school preserves middle grades opportunities in the Sandtown neighborhood.
- Staff will continue to work with students and families on the newly combined school, with possibilities including renaming the school and reviewing academic programming.

### **Reasons for Closure**

- Gilmor Elementary School has had low enrollment over time. Because of its small number of students, Gilmor has limited resources to provide quality programming and does not have sufficient enrollment for long-term sustainability.
- In 2017, the Board voted for City Schools staff to engage with the community to determine which of the two Sandtown neighborhood schools would close in 2019. A community planning team working since spring 2018 recommended the closure of the Gilmor building, and this recommendation was made to the Board by the CEO.

### **Board Action**

On January 8, 2019, the Board voted in favor of the CEO’s recommendation to close Gilmor Elementary School as of summer 2019 and to surplus the building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019. The Board’s decision gave consideration to the impact of the closing and surplus on the following factors:

- 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

### **Educational Programs Affected**

- Of the 36 staff members at Gilmor Elementary School, 23 are in positions for delivery of instruction.
- There are 29 students with disabilities at the school; 12 students receive 80% or more of their education inside the general education classroom, 4 students receive 40–79% of their education inside the general education classroom, and 13 students receive less than 40% of their education inside the general education classroom.\*
- Gilmor currently houses two pre-k classrooms.

*\*Sources: Unofficial September 30<sup>th</sup> Child Count as of November 29, 2018. These numbers are expected to change as a result of the MSDE data-cleansing process; final data anticipated by February 2019. Students enrolled in LRE J (2) and W (5) are not included in the total.*

### *Instruction*

- City Schools elementary and elementary/middle school programs utilize district curriculum aligned to the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards including Wit and Wisdom,

Eureka, and SABES. The teachers regularly participate in the professional learning opportunities that district staff provide. The Gilmore program also offers the following:

- Gifted and advanced learning programming
- Amplify Start Strong coaching for first grade

*Extracurricular Activities/Student Supports*

- Gilmore Elementary School is located adjacent to the Lillian Jones Recreation Center, and many students participate in after-school programming there.

**Student Relocation**

- Under the recommendation to close Gilmore Elementary School, students would attend a newly combined school program in the William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School location.

**Racial Composition**

- Gilmore and Pinderhughes have similar racial composition, both having above 95% African American students.

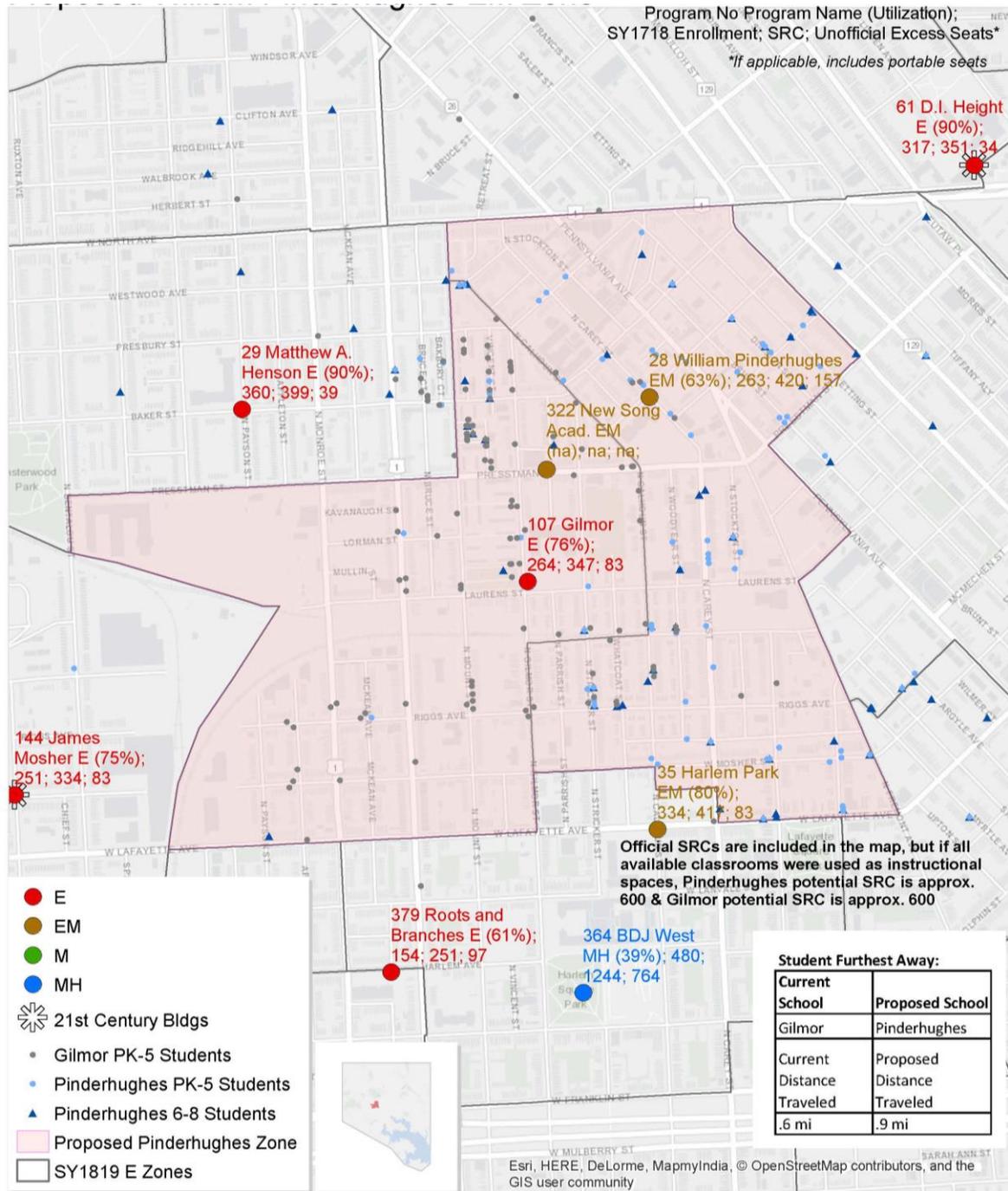
2017-18 School Year	% African American	% White	% Hispanic	% Asian	% American Indian	% Pacific Islander
Gilmore Elementary School	99.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
William Pinderhughes Elementary/Middle School	95.4	1.1	3.0	0.0	0.4	0.0

*Table has been adjusted to align with MSDE race and ethnicity categories. Previous table combined Asian and Pacific Islander.*

**Student Transportation Considerations**

- City Schools provides yellow bus service for elementary students who live more than 1 mile from their neighborhood school.
- 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) passes. Other transportation alternatives, such as yellow buses, are sometimes provided to students with disabilities and in other circumstances.
- Students with disabilities will receive transportation services if required by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

# Distribution of Gilmor. Elementary School Students



## Facility Data

Type: Traditional elementary school  
Grades served: pre-k -5  
Address: 1311 N. Gilmor Street, 21217  
Planning area: W B  
Date constructed: 1962  
Site size: 3.47 acres  
Building area: 77,290 sq. ft.

State-rated capacity: 347  
Building utilization rate\*:74% (2018-19)  
Facility Condition Index\*\*: 97%  
Educational Adequacy Score\*\*: 65

*\* Based on unofficial 2018-19 student data*

*\*\*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

- Gilmor Elementary School's budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year is approximately \$2 million in grants and general fund dollars. Dollars linked to schools through the Fair Student Funding model will follow students to the schools they attend in the 2019-20 school year.

## Community Feedback and Input, and District Response

- Gilmor community members expressed concern about the safety of children walking to the Pinderhughes building. Staff acknowledged that safety concerns are legitimate and that developing safety measures will be part of the planning process that will continue throughout 2019. This will include input and support from community partners as well as families, district staff, and school staff. Student safety when traveling to school is also a primary reason the community-based planning team wanted to preserve a middle grades option in the community.
- Gilmor community members expressed concerns about including middle grades students in the newly combined school with a pre-k to grade 8 configuration. Staff shared that the recommendation, which came from a community-based planning team, was designed to preserve a middle school option in Sandtown so that students do not have to travel out of the neighborhood to middle school and can instead stay closer to home. Further, the team believes that keeping siblings in one school provides safer travel options for younger siblings. Staff also shared that the layout and placement of students by grade within the facility as well as the scheduling and use of shared spaces takes into consideration grouping students with grade-appropriate peers.
- Gilmor community members expressed a desire for the school to have more kinds of supports for students and educational opportunities for community members such as GED help and computer skills. Staff encouraged community members to join the planning team and/or the School Family Council to help plan school programming and advocate for partnerships to provide additional supports.

### **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, Gilmor Elementary School will close effective summer 2019. The Gilmor building will be surplused to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019.

### **Surplus Building to the City of Baltimore**

#### ***Dr. Roland N. Patterson building***

4701 Greenspring Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21209

#### **Recommendation**

- Surplus the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building to the City of Baltimore in summer 2019.

#### **Opportunities**

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

#### **Reasons for Surplus**

- City Schools recommends surplus the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building because it will be vacant as of summer 2019, once relocation of KIPP Harmony Academy to the Walbrook building is complete. The district no longer requires the building for educational use.

#### **Board Action**

On January 8, 2019, the Board voted in favor of the CEO's recommendation to surplus the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building as of summer 2019.

#### **Student Enrollment Trends**

- KIPP Harmony Academy, which has been located in the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building, is a successful charter school with a strong waiting list. It is expected that most KIPP families will continue to enroll their students at the school when it moves to its new location. KIPP does not serve an enrollment zone. In the event that some KIPP families choose for students to return to neighborhood schools in the area of the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building, there is currently building capacity to absorb them.

#### **Educational Programs Affected**

- As a charter school, KIPP Harmony Academy is responsible for securing its own facility. The school will be moving to the Walbrook building, a facility in better condition than the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building.

#### **Student Relocation**

- As a charter school, KIPP Harmony Academy does not serve an enrollment zone but instead is open to all students across the city, with admission determined by lottery. As such, no rezoning will occur, and students will continue to be able to access the school in its new location.

## Facility Data

Type: charter school  
Grades served: k-8

Address: 4701 Greenspring Avenue, 21209  
Planning area: NW A  
Date constructed: 1973  
Site size: 26.40 acres  
Building area: 347,800 sq. ft.

State-rated capacity: 2,113  
Building utilization rate\*: 72% (2018-19)  
Facility Condition Index\*\*: 57%  
Educational Adequacy Score\*\*: 54

*\* Based on unofficial 2018-19 student data*

*\*\* 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 Dr. Roland N. Patterson 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 Dr. Roland N. Patterson building once it is surplus. Staff members shared that the building would be under the control of the City of Baltimore once it has been surplus out of the district's buildings portfolio.

## 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/building surplus recommendation report, and various other documents, reports, and comments, the Dr. Roland N. Patterson building will be surplus effective summer 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 February 7, 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.

February 07, 2019  
Date

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