November 9, 2021

Dear Claremont School Staff, Families, Students, and Community Members,

City Schools is committed to making sure that every school across the city provides our students with high-quality educational experiences that enables students to thrive, supports their learning and encourages their personal growth.

Part of our work in reaching this goal includes an annual review of the district’s schools and programs that looks at a broad range of considerations, including academic performance, school climate, school programming, enrollment trends, conditions of school facilities, the range and balance of school options in different parts of the city, and the 21st Century School Buildings Plan.

Due to the poor conditions of the Claremont facility, as a part of the 21st Century School Buildings Plan, in 2014-15 the Board of School Commissioners approved the movement of the Claremont program to specially designed space within the new 21st Century Patterson High School building. The construction and demolition work associated with the Patterson facility is set to complete later this year. The next step is I must make an official recommendation to change the location of Claremont.

Thus tonight, based on the results of this year’s review and the 21st Century School Buildings Plan, I am recommending that the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners consider relocating the Claremont School program to its space at the shared campus with Patterson High School effective for summer 2022, and to retain the Claremont building for future use by the district. If approved, this means starting in school year 2022-23, Claremont students will attend school in their new specially designed space within the Patterson High School building.

As a member of the Claremont School, your feedback on this recommendation is critical. A meeting will take place at your school at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021, where you can learn more and get answers to your questions.

For more information on the recommendations, you can view the report that has been provided to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (“Board”). The report is titled Annual Review of Schools: Review and Recommendations, 2021-22 (“Report”). The Report outlines the recommendations and the factors the Board must consider in this process. The Report is available on the district’s website (www.baltimorecityschools.org) and upon request can be reviewed at your school.

You can provide written feedback to the Board from now through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 7, 2022. Written comments must include full identification of the sender and should be directed to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, 200 E. North Ave., Room 406, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, or sent by email to portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us.

There are two opportunities where you can provide oral commentary to the Board on the recommendations:

- Public hearing: Thursday, December 2, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Special work session: Wednesday, December 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, all Board meetings are being held remotely. Please check the Board calendar or BoardDocs on the City Schools website for call-in information to observe the meetings which can be found here: https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/board-meetings. The opportunity for oral testimony will be closed after completion of the December 15 special session.

After consideration of all of the factors and other information learned through the process including public
feedback, the Board will vote on this recommendation at its meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Thank you for supporting our schools and students. We look forward to working in partnership with students, families, and school communities to create a district of high-quality school programs that meets the needs of every student in Baltimore.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonja Brookes Santelises
Chief Executive Officer