November 9, 2021

Dear Vanguard Collegiate Middle and Furley Elementary School Communities,

Baltimore City Public Schools is committed to providing high-quality school options for all students, and to ensuring that those options are available in all areas of the city. Part of our work in reaching this goal includes an annual review of the district’s schools and programs. The review process takes into account factors including academic performance, enrollment trends, conditions of school facilities, and the range and balance of school options available in different areas of the city.

For several years, the Thurgood Marshall building has been the temporary location for Vanguard Collegiate Middle and Furley Elementary schools. The original plan was for Vanguard Collegiate Middle School to relocate to the Northeast Middle Building after some capital improvements were made to the facility and for Furley Elementary to return to its original building once the facility issues had been addressed. The expected date for the completion of these projects was 2023.

In this past legislation session, additional funding allocations were made to City Schools allowing for the district to do a more fuller renovation of the Northeast Building to include significant upgrades for most of the building and its future use as the permanent location for Vanguard Collegiate as well as to fully replace the Furley Elementary building. These projects are expected to complete in 2025 which means both schools will need to stay located at Thurgood Marshall Building longer.

Therefore tonight, I am recommending to the Board of School Commissioners to delay the surplus date of the Thurgood Marshall building from 2023 to 2025.

The Board will vote on this recommendation at a meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

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.

If you have questions about this recommendation, you can reach out to Angela Alvarez (ADAlvarez@bcps.k12.md.us), Executive Director of the Office of New Initiatives or Lindsey Anderson (LEAnderson@bcps.k12.md.us), Specialist, Office of New Initiatives or reach them by phone at 443-396-8550.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer