

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

November 10, 2020

Dear Calverton Elementary/Middle School 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.

I recognize that school year 2020-21 is complicated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the impacts of that pandemic on our communities, and the recognition of the ongoing injustices that impact the communities we serve, our staff and our work. We recognize that changes to school communities can be stressful for school communities. Therefore, this year's recommendations are limited to actions that are part of the 21st Century School Buildings Plan or recommendations where postponing potential actions could cause greater harm than having the Board consider and act sooner on the behalf of our students.

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 closing Alexander Hamilton Elementary School in June 2021, at the end of the current school year, consider merging the Alexander Hamilton, James Mosher, and Calverton zones into one zone, and consider returning Alexander Hamilton Building to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021. If the closure is approved, students in the zone in grades prekindergarten through 2 will be rezoned to James Mosher Elementary School and students in grades 3 through 8 will be rezoned to Calverton Elementary/Middle School, starting in the 2021-2022 school year, both in newly renovated 21st century school buildings. Calverton Elementary/Middle School will continue to serve as the designated middle school for students in the area.

Additionally, I am recommending to the Board that the West Baltimore Building be surplus and returned to the city of Baltimore in summer 2022 after it is no longer needed for educational purposes. As you know, the building has been used as swing space for several schools as a part of the 21st Century Buildings Plan, including your school who moves out of the building in summer 2021.

As a member of the Calverton community, your feedback on this recommendation is critical. **The Board is providing two opportunities for the public to give comments on all recommendations in the report of this year's review of schools and programs.** As City Schools continues to fight the spread of COVID-19, all Board meetings will be held remotely in the interim. 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>.

- Public hearing: Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Special session: Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

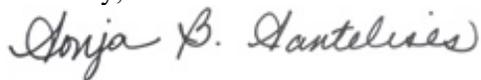
The opportunity for oral testimony will be closed after completion of the December 16 special session. The Board will also accept written comment or data until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021. Written comment must include full identification of the sender and should be directed to the Baltimore City Board

of School Commissioners, 200 E. North Ave., Room 406, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, or sent by email to portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us.

In support of the recommendation, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (“Board”) has received a report titled Annual Review of Schools: Review and Recommendations, 2020-21 (“Report”). The Report outlines recommendations and the factors the Board must consider in this process. The Report is available on the district’s website (www.baltimorecityschools.org) or for review upon request at the school office. **The Board will vote on this recommendation at a meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.**

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonja B. Santelises".

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer