

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 Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School Families, Students, Staff, 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, I am recommending that the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners consider closing Lockerman Bundy Elementary School in June 2021, at the end of the current school year, consider rezoning students to Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School and expanding the Mary Ann Winterling zone to include the Lockerman Bundy zone with a zone correction, and consider returning the Lockerman Bundy Building to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021.

If the closure is approved, the school communities would combine starting in the 2021-2022 school year, the Mary Ann Winterling zone would be expanded to include the Lockerman Bundy zone and adjusted so that the zone does not cross Route 40. **Students on the north side of Route 40 would be rezoned to Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School starting in the 2021-2022 school year.**

Enrollment in the school community has been declining for several years and there are not enough students to sustain two separate elementary schools. Combining the two small elementary schools into one program will improve students' chances for success by enabling them to attend a school with the capacity to sustain rich, robust, and varied educational programs.

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 Public 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).

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