

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 North Bend Elementary/Middle 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.

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 this year's review, and per the 21st Century School Buildings Plan, I am recommending to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners that the West Baltimore Building be surplusd and returned to the city of Baltimore in summer 2022 after it is no longer needed for educational purposes.

As you may know, the building has been used as swing space for several schools as a part of the 21st Century Buildings Plan. Calverton Elementary/Middle School moves out of the building in summer 2021.

In the 2021-22 school year, we will be replacing the HVAC system at your school. For any construction project the safety of students, staff, and visitors are of utmost importance. Often these projects can be completed safely and in a manner that does not interrupt continued regular school use of the facility. However, sometimes, due to the extent of the project and the existing conditions, we need to swing students and staff into another facility. Therefore, we are retaining the West Baltimore Building in case we need to use it as swing space during school year 2021-22 for North Bend during the construction of the HVAC project. We will not be able to determine if we need it until the design and pre-construction planning work occurs later this school year in Spring 2021. If we need to use the facility for this purpose, we will inform you prior to this happening and provide an opportunity to address questions. Look for additional communication regarding this in school year 2021-22.

As a member of the North Bend community, and your proximity to the West Baltimore Building, your feedback on the surplus of the West Baltimore Building is critical. **A virtual meeting will take place 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24**, where you can learn more and get answers to your questions. Details on how to join the meeting are at the end of this letter, will be posted on the district website, and shared by your school leader via methods used for school communication.

In addition, 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>.

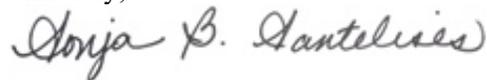
- Public hearing: Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Special session: Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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) and upon request for review at your school. **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,



Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

Link for the Community Meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting on Nov 24 at 5:30 pm](#)

Or call in (audio only) +1 443-961-1488, 428155202# United States, Baltimore
Phone Conference ID: 428 155 202#

For best experience, join using the link rather than calling in if you are able, so you can see the presentation. You must identify yourself to join and participate in the meeting