

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 Cross Country 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 the results of this year's review along with reviews conducted in past years, I am recommending to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners that the Northwestern building be retained in the district's portfolio until summer 2025.

As you know, the construction for Cross Country is not expected to be completed until 2022 and so the program will continue to need to use the facility for swing space. Additionally, we anticipate using the building for swing space for schools undergoing construction or renovation as part of the district's 21st Century High School Buildings Plan, should the funding be approved in the upcoming legislative session. The building is one of the few swing buildings in the district that has regulation sized fields for sports teams and is a high school building with the proper sized gym and cafeteria and appropriate classroom spaces such as science labs.

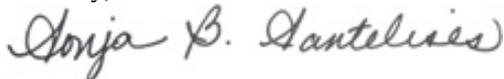
As a member of the community, your feedback on this recommendation is critical. The Board is providing two opportunities for the public to give comments on all recommendations in the report of this year's review of schools and programs. As City Schools continues to fight the spread of COVID-19, all Board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