

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

January 28, 2022

Dear Johnston Square Elementary School Community,

In November, I recommended that Board of School Commissioners consider closing Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary School at the end of this school year, splitting the zone between Johnston Square Elementary School and Harford Heights Elementary School, and consider returning the Dr. Bernard Harris building (“surplus”) to the city of Baltimore in summer 2022. **After consideration of the testimony from parents and community partners during the process, I rescinded this recommendation at the Board meeting on January 25, 2022.**

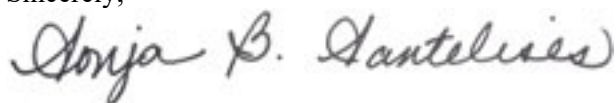
This means that Dr. Bernard Harris Elementary School will be open in school year 2022-23 and beyond and no changes will be made to the Dr. Bernard Harris program, or the zones of Johnston Square Elementary School or Harford Heights Elementary School.

The main consideration for this recommendation was the low school enrollment over time at both Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. Elementary School and Johnston Square Elementary, and its impact on our ability to provide robust and varied educational programming based on per-student funding to each school.

Partners, such as BUILD, have come forward to support both schools in doing outreach and engaging with each school’s community to increase enrollment. This support will be needed for both Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. Elementary School, and Johnston Square Elementary School, in order to solve the challenges presented by low enrollment that impact both schools’ ability to offer robust and varied programming.

Thank you for supporting our schools and students. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with students, families, and your school community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools
Secretary, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners