

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 14, 2022

Dear George W. F. McMechen High School Community,

In November, I recommended to the Board of School Commissioners that they consider surplus the George W.F. McMechen building in summer 2022 when it is no longer needed for educational purposes. **Today I am writing to let you know that on January 11, 2022, the Board voted to approve the recommendation to surplus the McMechen building in summer 2022.**

As you know, in January 2020, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners approved the closure of George W. F. McMechen High School when the new facility for the Claremont Middle/High School opens and associated construction completes.

This means starting in school year 2022-23, McMechen students who still require a separate public day school setting will have the opportunity to attend Claremont School or William S. Baer School based on individual need. Both are separate public day schools that serve students with similar needs as McMechen.

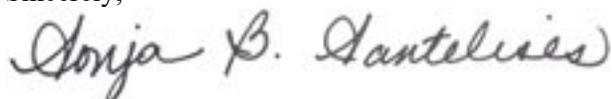
District office staff are in the process of working with the school community to prepare for the transition and will continue to work with each family to find a placement that best fits their students' educational needs. In the coming months, we will continue working with you to make the transition as smooth as possible. Please watch for more information about the schedule of events. For more information about transition please consult with the school. You can also contact the Office of Special Education at 410-396-8900 or 443-642-2000.

Given the importance of the George W. F. McMechen school name and desire to maintain the history of schools, staff will work with the school community to find ways to continue to honor his history in the district. For more information on this you can reach out to the Angela Alvarez (adalvarez@bcps.k12.md.us) or Lindsey Anderson (landerson@bcps.k12.md.us) in the Office of New Initiatives or reach them by phone at 410-396-8550.

In the next few weeks, the Board will issue a written report documenting the decision to surplus the George W.F. McMechen building. Members of the public can appeal the decision in writing to the Maryland State Board of Education within 30 days of the report being issued. We will inform you when the report is issued, at which time more information regarding the appeals process will also be shared.

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, Baltimore City Public Schools
Secretary, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners