

**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 West Baltimore and North Bend Elementary School community,

In November, I recommended to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to consider changing the surplus date of the West Baltimore Building from summer 2022 to spring 2022 and to amend exhibit 6 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Buildings Plan to include this building on the list. Exhibit 6 is the list of buildings the district is obligated to surplus as one of the commitments in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Buildings Plan. **On January 11, 2022, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve these recommendations.** 

As you may know, in 2021, the Board approved the surplus of the West Baltimore building in summer 2022. The purpose of this year's vote was to expedite the surplus of the West Baltimore building as it is no longer needed by the district for educational purposes and can be returned to the city of Baltimore earlier than expected.

The prior Board vote on the surplus of the West Baltimore building in 2021 included a vote to retain the portion of land used by North Bend Elementary School as field space for continued educational use. Last year, City Schools and City Planning staff met with the North Bend school community to create a proposal for a subdivision line for the land that would be retained by the district, to ensure it included appropriate field space and access to the field space for North Bend Elementary School. As this line was a proposal, it will go through the subdivision process with the city of Baltimore for final approval, once the building is surplused.

In the coming months, look for additional communication if the subdivision is not approved or is altered. If you have questions about the subdivision process, you can contact Greg Gamble (<a href="mailto:gsgamble@bcps.k12.md.us">gsgamble@bcps.k12.md.us</a>) in City Schools Office of Real Estate.

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, Donja B. Gantelies

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises Chief Executive Officer

Secretary, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners