

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

February 10, 2022

Dear ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School Community,

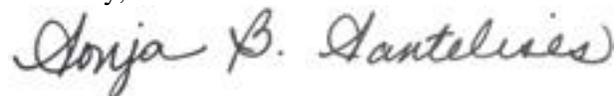
In November, I wrote to you about the process City Schools uses to review charter schools and other schools with external operators to ensure they are supporting students' success. This review occurs every three or five years, depending on each school's charter or contract, and assesses the school's performance over time in the areas of academic performance, school climate, financial management, and governance. In the current school year, the process has been modified due to the unique challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and the move to virtual learning last school year, focusing on the school and its operator's ability to comply with critical federal, state and district requirements around providing students with appropriate learning opportunities, climate and safety, as well as ensuring the financial health of the school. Additionally, for any schools that are in a partial contract term, meaning a 3-year contract, where the school has had mixed ratings in a prior renewal, the Board per its policy also considers whether the school has improved since that term in formulating its decision.

On Tuesday, January 11, the Board voted to renew ConneXions's charter for the next three years, with conditions on improvement of graduation rates and academic programming for students. This decision indicates the confidence the district has in your school and its ability to improve over its next charter term. For ConneXions, the renewal process highlighted areas of strength for the school, areas the school has improved in and where there is still need for improvement. For instance, the school provides daily, culturally relevant and rigorous arts programming for students, enhanced through partnerships with local arts organizations, has improved its graduation rates over the last two years, and provides strong social emotional learning supports to students. However, the school must continue to work to improve student achievement and students' success in graduation.

For more details on the review, read your school's renewal report, which can be found on the district website at www.baltimorecityschools.org/renewal. If you have questions about the Board's decision, please contact Angela Alvarez or Trevor Roberts in the district's Office of New Initiatives at 410-396-8550.

Your involvement is a key contributor to the strength of your school. Thank you for your partnership and support. I look forward to continued success for our students and schools in 2022.

Sincerely,



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