February 10, 2022

Dear Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership 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 currently in a partial contract term, meaning a 3-year contract, where the school has had mixed ratings in the major areas 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 Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School’s charter for the next three years. This decision indicates the confidence the district has in your school and its ability to contribute to students’ success. For Elmer A. Henderson, the renewal process highlighted the many areas in which your school is effective or highly effective, including in each of the key areas. The school has strong practices to track student data and uses that information to improve academic programming that leads to effective outcomes for students. Still like many schools, there are areas for improvement. The school must continue to work to make sure these practices are benefiting all student groups, particularly students with disabilities.

For more details, 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