April 9, 2021

Dear North Bend Elementary/Middle School community members,

In November, I wrote to you about the district’s recommendation that the West Baltimore Building be “surplused,” returning it to the city of Baltimore in summer 2022. I wrote to you in January that the Board vote on this recommendation would be delayed until March 9, 2021 so that the Board vote could take into consideration what portions of land should be retained by City Schools for use by North Bend Elementary/Middle School. At its meeting on March 9, the Board voted to surplus the West Baltimore Building in summer 2022 as the building which had served as swing space for several schools is no longer needed for educational purposes. The Board voted to retain the portion of the land containing the field spaces used by North Bend Elementary/Middle School for school uses. Final approval of the subdivision of the land will be subject to approval by vote of the Baltimore City Planning Commission.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware that today, the Board issued a written report that documents this decision. In making its determination, the Board considered my rationale, testimony provided at public hearings and submitted in the written contents of the official record, and 8 factors listed in Board policy FCA Closing of Schools, as applicable (student enrollment trends, age or condition of school buildings, transportation, educational programs, racial composition of student body, financial considerations, student relocation, impact on community and schools which students would relocate). As described in the notice on the back of this letter (which also appeared this morning in the Baltimore Sun newspaper), members of the public can appeal the Board’s decision in writing to the Maryland State Board of Education within 30 days of today’s date.

If you have questions about the Board’s decision to surplus the West Baltimore Building, you can contact Angela Alvarez or Lindsey Anderson, the Office of New Initiatives via email at portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us or by phone at 410-396-8550.

Thank you for your partnership in support of students, families, and our school communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools
Secretary, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
NOTICE OF THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS’
DECISIONS REGARDING BUILDING SURPLUS

At a public meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners ("Board") voted on recommendations regarding the disposition of two soon to be unused school buildings ("surplus"), in Baltimore City Public Schools. Written reports, compiled in the Addendum to the School Closures, Building Surplusing and School Relocations book, of the Board’s decisions have been issued and the compilation is available at the Baltimore City Public Schools website, www.baltimorecityschools.org, or by contacting City Schools at 410-396-8550. The Board’s decisions are summarized as follows.

Building surpluses

West Baltimore building: The Board voted to surplus the West Baltimore building to the city of Baltimore effective summer 2022, once the building is no longer required for educational use. City Schools will retain the portion of the land used as field space by North Bend Elementary Middle School. Final determination on the land division is subject to approval by vote of the Baltimore City Planning Commission.

Winston building: The Board voted to surplus the Winston building to the city of Baltimore effective summer 2021, once the building is no longer required for educational use.

RIGHT TO APPEAL: An appeal to the Maryland State Board of Education may be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days after April 9, 2021, the date of issue of the Board’s written decision. The appeal should be sent to Office of the Attorney General, Maryland State Department of Education, Attn: Jackie La Fiandra/State Board of Appeals, 200 St. Paul Place, 19th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202