

# 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 8, 2022

Dear George W. F. McMechen High School Community,

As I shared last month, at its meeting on Tuesday, January 11, the Board voted to surplus the McMechen building, returning it to the city of Baltimore in summer 2022.

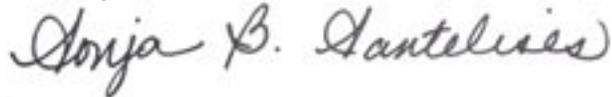
As you know, in January 2020, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners approved the closure of George W. F. McMechen High School when the specially designed 21<sup>st</sup> century space for Claremont Middle/High School in the Patterson High School facility opens and associated construction completes. The portion of the Patterson campus dedicated to Claremont Middle/High will be ready for students this summer, and so the George McMechen building will no longer be needed by City Schools for educational purposes.

**The purpose of this letter is to make you aware that today, the Board issued a written report that documents this decision.** The report can be found on the City Schools website:

[www.baltimorecityschools/annual](http://www.baltimorecityschools/annual) review and is available at your school for viewing. In making its determination, the Board considered the CEO's rationale, testimony provided at public hearings and submitted in writing contents of the official record, and the factors required by COMAR and 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 and Daily Record newspapers), 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.

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.

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, January 11, 2022, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (“Board”) voted on a recommendation regarding the disposition of one soon to be unused school building (“surplus”) in Baltimore City Public Schools. A written report, compiled in the School Closures and Building Surpluses, of the Board’s decision has been issued and the compilation is available at the Baltimore City Public Schools website, [www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org), or by contacting City Schools at 410-396-8550. The Board’s decision is summarized as follows.

**George W.F. McMechen Building:** The Board voted to surplus the McMechen building to the city of Baltimore effective summer 2022, once the building is no longer required for educational purposes. (In 2020, the Board previously approved the closure of George W.F. McMechen High School to take effect at the end of the current school year.)

**RIGHT TO APPEAL:** An appeal to the Maryland State Board of Education may be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days after February 8, 2022, 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