February 11, 2021

Dear Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School Community,

As shared last month, at its meeting Tuesday, January 12, the Board voted to close Guilford Elementary/Middle School be at the end of the current school year in June 2021, and to return the school building (“surplus”) to the City of Baltimore in summer 2021. The Board also voted to relocate the Lois T Murray program to the new Walter P. Carter Building in summer 2021, and to return its building (“surplus”) to the city of Baltimore.

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 the CEO’s rationale, testimony provided at public hearings and submitted in writing contents of the official record, and the 8 factors required by COMAR and listed in Board policy FCA Closing of Schools (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.

There is not sufficient student population to support both Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School and Guilford Elementary/Middle School as separate schools. Guilford was selected as the facility to close as the majority of students attending Guilford and Walter P. Carter live closer to Walter P. Carter and Walter P. Carter will be housed in a 21st Century school building. Closing Guilford and rezoning students to Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle will improve students’ chances for success by enabling them to attend a school with the capacity to have increased per-student funding to sustain rich, robust, and varied educational programs housed in a 21st century building. This also maximizes the number of students who have access to these facilities and 21st Century academic planning designed to improve student outcomes.

Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, Guilford Elementary/Middle School students will join Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School students to create one school community. Additionally, beginning in the 2021-22 school year, the Lois T. Murray Elementary/Middle School program will be co-located with Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School on the Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School campus in a separate space specially designed for Lois T. Murray Elementary/Middle School.

As I shared last month, there is another recommendation pending regarding the school’s swing space location that may impact you. On Tuesday, January 12, I recommended to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners that they approve the surplus and return of the Winston Building back to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021. As you know, Walter P. Carter has been located in the Winston Building as swing space for the past 1.5 years while its new building is under construction. After Walter P. Carter moves into its renovated 21st Century building in January 2021, the Winston Building will no longer be needed by the district for educational purposes. The Board will be voting on this recommendation on March 9, 2021. After the Board vote, a written report will be issued that documents
the decision. We will inform you when the report is issued, at which time more information regarding the appeals process will be shared.

In the coming months, we will continue to work on creating a shared identity for the newly combined schools and work with you to make the transition as smooth as possible. Please watch for more information about the schedule of events. You can also contact the 21st Century Schools Office at 443-642-4600 or visit the website at https://baltimore21stcenturyschools.org to track future meetings.

If you have questions about the Board’s decision, please contact City Schools at 443-984-2000.

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 SCHOOL CLOSURES, SCHOOL RELOCATIONS, AND BUILDING SURPLUS

At a public meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (“Board”) voted on recommendations regarding school closures, school relocations, and disposition of unused school buildings (“surplusing”), in Baltimore City Public Schools. Written reports, compiled in 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. Copies of written reports are also available for inspection at each of the closing schools named below. The Board’s decisions are summarized as follows.

Closure of traditional schools and building surpluses

**Alexander Hamilton Elementary School**: The Board voted to close Alexander Hamilton Elementary School effective June 2021 and surplus its building to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021. Students in grades pre-k to 2 will be rezoned for James Mosher Elementary School, and students in grades 3 to 8 will be rezoned for Calverton Elementary/Middle School. The James Mosher, Calverton, and Alexander Hamilton zones will be merged into one zone, with all students in grades pre-k to grade 2 rezoned to James Mosher Elementary School; and all students in grades 3 through 8 rezoned to Calverton Elementary/Middle School.

**Guilford Elementary/Middle School**: The Board voted to close Guilford Elementary/Middle School effective June 2021 and surplus its building to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021. Students will be rezoned to Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School. The Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School zone will expand to include the Guilford Elementary/Middle School zone.

**Lockerman Bundy Elementary School**: The Board voted to close Lockerman Bundy Elementary School effective June 2021 and surplus its building to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021. Students will be rezoned to Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School. The Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School zone will expand to include the Lockerman Bundy Elementary School zone and will be adjusted for future students so that it does not cross Route 40. Future students on the other side of Route 40 will be rezoned to Harlem Park Elementary Middle School.

Relocation of a separate public day school with building surplus

**Lois T. Murray Elementary/Middle School**: The Board voted to relocate the Lois T. Murray program to its specially designed space in the Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School building in summer 2021 and surplus the building to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021.

Relocation of a separate public day school with grade band expansion and surplus

**Sharp-Leadenhall Elementary School**: The Board voted to relocate the Sharp-Leadenhall Elementary School to its specially designed space in the Harford Heights building in summer 2021, to reconfigure the grade bands from serving students in grades 1 through 5 to serving students in grades 1 through 8.
beginning in school year 2021-22, and to surplus the building in summer 2021.

**Additional building surplus**

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

**William C. March building:** The Board voted to surplus the William C. March building to the city of Baltimore effective summer 2021, once the building is no longer required for educational use. Per the 21st Century School Buildings Plan, the building will be demolished, and City Schools will retain use of the land.

The Board will vote on additional building surpluses for the West Baltimore building and Winston Building on March 9, 2021. An additional legal notice will be issued with these decisions.

**RIGHT TO APPEAL:** An appeal to the Maryland State Board of Education may be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days after February 11, 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