April 9, 2021

Dear Walter P. Carter School Community,

I shared with you in January and February that the Board was considering a recommendation to surplus the Winston Building, the location Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School had been using as swing space over the past 1.5 years. At its meeting on March 9, 2021, the Board voted to surplus the Winston Building, returning it to the city of Baltimore in summer 2021.

As you know, the Winston Building originally housed the Winston Middle School program until it closed in 2010. After that it served as a temporary location for schools needing swing space, most recently it has served as a swing space for Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School. Walter P. Carter moved into its new 21st century building earlier this year, and so the Winston Building will no longer be needed 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. 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 Winston Building or want to help us in preserving the history of the former Winston Middle School, you can contact the Office of New Initiatives via email at portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us or by phone at 410-396-8550.

Sincerely,

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