

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

January 12, 2021

Dear Winston Community,

City Schools is committed to making sure that every school across the city provides our students with high-quality educational experiences that enables students to thrive, supports their learning and encourages their personal growth. Part of our work in reaching this goal includes an annual review of the district's schools and programs that looks at a broad range of considerations, including academic performance, school climate, school programming, enrollment trends, conditions of school facilities, the range and balance of school options in different parts of the city, and the 21st Century School Buildings Plan. I shared the majority of recommendations earlier in the school year, with the Board voting on those tonight. As part of tonight's meeting, I am adding this final recommendation based on an updated understanding of our facility needs.

I am recommending 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.

As a member of the community, your feedback on this recommendation is critical. **A virtual meeting will take place Tuesday, January 26 beginning at 5:30 p.m.,** where you can learn more and get answers to your questions. Details on how to join the meeting are at the end of this letter, will be posted on your school page of the City Schools website and sent out by your school leader.

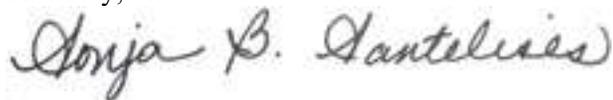
In addition, the Board is holding a virtual public hearing at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9 following the Board meeting for the public to give comments on this recommendation. Please check the Board calendar or BoardDocs on the City Schools website for call-in information to observe the virtual hearing which can be found here: <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/board-meetings>. Details on how to submit testimony are at the end of this letter.

The opportunity for oral testimony will be closed after completion of the February 9 public hearing. The Board will also accept written comment or data until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2021. Written comment must include full identification of the sender and should be directed to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, 200 E. North Ave., Room 406, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, or sent by email to portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us.

In support of the recommendation, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners ("Board") has received a report on this recommendation which outlines the recommendation and the factors the Board must consider in this process. The Report is available on the district's website www.baltimorecityschools.org/annual-review. **The Board will vote on this recommendation at its meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.**

Thank you for supporting our schools and students. We look forward to working in partnership with students, families, and school communities to create a district of high-quality school programs that meets the needs of every student in Baltimore.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

Link for the Winston Building Surplus Community Meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting](#) on January 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 443-961-1488, 659722386#](#) United States, Baltimore

Phone Conference ID: 659 722 386#

For best experience, join using the link rather than calling in if you are able, so you can see the presentation. You must identify yourself to join and participate in the meeting.

Guidelines for submitting oral testimony at the Board Hearing:

- Members of the public interested in submitting comments can **e-mail Lindsey Anderson** at leanderson@bcps.k12.md.us **within 2 hours of the start of each meeting (between 6-8 on February 9)**.
 - Members of the public can send an e-mail of no longer than 650 words that will be read aloud by the Board Executive, a video that will be broadcast during the meeting or sign up to deliver their comments live during the meeting.
- Videos and live comments at the public hearing and special meeting **are limited to five minutes** in length. Please indicate whether you will be commenting live, submitting a video or submitting an e-mail to be read.
- All persons wishing to participate **MUST** include the following information in their sign-up e-mail or they may void their opportunity to participate:
 - name,
 - address,
 - email address,
 - telephone number (if applicable),
 - school / civic / community affiliation,
 - agenda topic about which the registrant wishes to speak, and
 - the format to be used: (a) commenting live, (b) submitting a video, or (c) an email to be read.
 - If planning to provide a video, please attach it to the email.