

November 12, 2025¹

Dear Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys Community,

Baltimore City Public Schools is committed to providing a wide range of high-quality school options for all students. The district's charter, transformation, and other schools with external operators contribute significantly to that commitment.

City Schools is equally committed to ensuring that all its schools support students' academic success. The district does this, in part, by reviewing schools regularly in a range of areas. In the case of schools with external operators, the review process (**called renewal**) considers academic performance and school climate, as well as financial management and governance. The renewal process occurs every three, five, or, eight years depending on each school's contract or charter and is an assessment of the school's performance over time.

Tonight, based on the results of the renewal process and the recommendation of the Charter and Operator-led Schools Advisory Board, I am recommending to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners that they do not renew the contract with the Five Smooth Stones, Inc., your school's operator, and Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys close at the end of this school year, June 2026.

Baltimore Collegiate has had multiple partial renewals with conditions. This year's cycle of renewal review of the school's operator resulted in ratings of "Not Effective" in Academics, "Developing" in School Climate and "Not Effective" in Financial Management/ Governance.

Some examples of areas of concern include the school's low achievement on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) where the school is rated "Not Effective" in 6 of the 8 measures. The school is also rated "Not Effective" in Effective Programming for Students with Disabilities which looks at *the extent to which the school has demonstrated a strong trajectory of growth, is aware of its data and responsibilities to students with disabilities and has effectively and consistently implemented processes, interventions, and strategies to support student outcomes over the course of the contract*. The school was rated "Does Not Meet Expectations," the lowest possible rating, in Audit – Content and Internal Controls, where the review found that the school faces significant financial challenges including multiple years of negative net assets. **For more information on the findings of the renewal review, and to see your school's full renewal report, please visit <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/renewal>.**

As a member of the Baltimore Collegiate community, your feedback on this recommendation is critical. A meeting will take place at your school on **Tuesday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m.**, where you can learn more about the recommendation and how to get involved in the process and share feedback with the Board.

¹ On 12/9/25 corrected letter template; original letter was presented on outdated letterhead.

The Board will hold a public work session for your school's renewal recommendations and other schools on Thursday, December 4th 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is an additional opportunity for the operator to make its case for renewal to the Board. The work sessions will be held virtually. Members of the public can access these meetings by clicking on meeting link available on BoardDocs on the City Schools website: <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/board-meetings>.

In addition, there are two opportunities where you can give oral commentary to the Board on the recommendations.

- Public Hearing #1: Thursday, December 11, 2025
- Public Hearing #2: Thursday, January 8, 2026

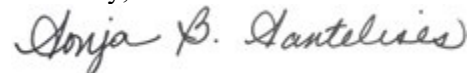
Both hearings will start at 5:30 pm and be held in-person at the district office, 200 E. North Avenue. Directions for how to sign up to provide oral commentary will be provided at the school-based meeting and can be found on the district's website (www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/annual-review). The opportunity for oral testimony will be closed after completion of the January 8, 2026 public hearing.

You can also provide written feedback to the Board from now through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026. Written comments 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

The ultimate decision to renew your school rests with the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. After consideration of all of the factors, requirements of Board policy IHBJ and IHBJ-RA, and other information learned through the process including public feedback, the Board will vote on this recommendation at its meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer
Baltimore City Public Schools