

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Cheryl A. Casciani
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

July 12, 2018

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Position Statement
City Council Bill 18-0267

Dear Council President Young:

On June 11, 2018 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned ordinance to change the name of Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School Building, located at 621 Wildwood Parkway, to Wildwood Elementary/Middle School Building.

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) strongly supports this name change, which was initiated to ensure that Rognel Heights Elementary/Middle School students and families would feel welcome at the new school building that had been designed and constructed for students from both Rognel Heights and Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School.

The renaming process was conducted in accordance with Baltimore City Public Schools' Naming/Renaming School Facility Regulation (FFA-RA). The 21st Century School Buildings Program recruited and convened stakeholders to participate in a transition committee, to discuss and plan for the combining of the two programs (including, but not limited to, the renaming process). The transition committee included staff, administration, parents from both schools, and a partner from Lyndhurst.

As required, the principal provided neighborhood, students, teachers, and other interested citizens an opportunity to suggest names for the facility. Following a series of surveys conducted between October and December 2017, an election was held in which the name Wildwood Elementary/Middle School was chosen for the combined school program. It is important to note that the majority of votes cast in the election were from students.

Having met the necessary committee and engagement requirements of the Naming/Renaming policy, on April 10, 2018 the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (Board) voted to request that the Baltimore City Council change the name of Lyndhurst Elementary/Middle School Building to Wildwood Elementary/Middle School Building.

City Schools will be pleased to testify further on this issue upon request.

Sincerely,



Alison Perkins-Cohen
Chief of Staff