

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

May 10, 2021

Dear Reginald F. Lewis High School community,

Thank you for your continued support of our students and school during our leadership transition this spring. I am writing today with an update about the investigation we noted in March and what it means moving forward.

Effective immediately, Ms. Janine Patterson will no longer be affiliated with Reginald F. Lewis High School. As a result of evidence identified in the investigation initiated by Baltimore City Public Schools in December, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sonja Santelises has recommended the termination of Ms. Patterson due to insubordination, willful neglect of duty and misconduct, including financial impropriety. Under Maryland state law, the next step is for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to review the recommendation and make a final decision to move forward with termination.

City Schools is working with the Reginald F. Lewis High School community to support the transition to new leadership. Mr. Dave Verdi will continue to serve as the acting school principal for the remainder of the school year. The selection of a permanent principal for the 2021-2022 school year is in the planning stages, and you will be updated as we move forward.

The investigation continues and may result in additional staff receiving discipline and personnel action, including termination. City Schools is also consulting with external investigating agencies. While we cannot share our full findings until the investigation is completed, the current information raises serious concerns that warranted City Schools' immediate action. Rest assured, City Schools will provide you with an update on our findings when the review is completed.

Thank you for supporting Reginald F. Lewis High School, its students, and its staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at sjackson@bcps.k12.md.us.

Sincerely,

Starletta Jackson, Ph.D.
Instructional Leadership Executive Director
Community Learning Network 8
Baltimore City Public Schools