

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Brandon M. Scott, Mayor**  
*City of Baltimore*

**Ronald S. McFadden, Chair**  
*Board of School Commissioners*

**Sonja Brookins Santelises**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

March 22, 2024

Greetings Garrett Heights Elementary/Middle School Families,

I am writing to inform you about recent rodent sightings that have occurred on our school premises. These sightings have prompted a series of immediate actions from our Facilities team and pest control specialists. We are actively monitoring and addressing the situation diligently to ensure the safety and well-being of our school community.

On March 14, 2024, a rodent was sighted in the media center. Upon investigation, it was discovered that recent utility work conducted by BGE in our community may have unsettled the area, leading to an increase in rodent activity. Our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) supervisor conducted thorough inspections of the affected areas and provided valuable insights into addressing the issue. Repairs were immediately completed to seal entry points and minimize harborage areas.

Additionally, bait was strategically placed in storage areas near the gym to target rodent activity. Unfortunately, despite our initial efforts, a rodent sighting was reported during a subsequent inspection on March 21, 2024. Droppings were found in a small storage area in the gymnasium, and the rodent was later discovered. The rodent managed to enter the cafeteria, where prompt action was taken to reveal harborage areas and address the rodent issue immediately.

All findings and actions taken have been reported to me, and additional traps have been set. The district operation team is on site supporting custodians with mitigation measures, and this will continue this work over spring break.

We understand the concern that such sightings may cause and assure you that we are taking every necessary measure to address the issue effectively with our partners in the Facilities Maintenance and Operations Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Respectfully,

Keisha Matthews-Traynham, *Principal*

CC: Lynette Washington, *Chief Operating Officer*  
William Levy, *Executive Director, Facilities*  
Roland Dale, *Director, Environmental Compliance & Logistics*  
Anthony Peña, *Director, Building Maintenance & Inspections*  
Latanya Carter, *Senior Project Manager, Environmental Compliance*  
Lindsey Vollentine, *Instructional Leadership Executive Director*  
David F. Turner, *Manager, School Operations*