

Dear BPS Community,

I write with an opportunity to inform the School Committee's upcoming meeting regarding April vacation. The last scheduled School Committee meeting took place on April 1st. During the meeting the School Committee voted to move BHS graduation to June 27. No other school calendar modifications were made at that time. On April 3rd, the Commissioner of Education informed school superintendents that the use of April vacation could remain a local decision (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html>).

Since my last communication on April 9th, educators and parents have been contacting me with pros and cons for keeping or using April vacation. I don't have a strong preference either way, but want to support our educators, students, and families in whatever way is most beneficial. Given the variety of perspectives offered by those who were in contact with me, I began speaking with individual School Committee members at the end of last week to consider next steps.

The School Committee votes to approve our annual school calendar, and any amendments or adjustments to the calendar require School Committee deliberation and action. As such, the School Committee will meet this Wednesday at 3:00 via Zoom (also broadcast on Channel 18).

Given the quick turnaround and multiple perspectives, I am going to poll BPS staff and parents through our Blackboard Connect phone notification system. Tomorrow morning (approximately 10 am) you will receive a phone call from our Blackboard Connect system. **It will be important to stay on the line if you want to vote.** The system will prompt you to **press 1 to keep** April vacation as is, or to **press 2 to cancel** April vacation. The School Committee will have the polling results for their Wednesday meeting. The plan is that the School Committee will make a decision on Wednesday so that staff, students, and families can plan accordingly.

Thank you for providing important input into this decision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meg Mayo-Brown, Superintendent of Schools