



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Public comment at next week's school committee meeting

Heather Breslau <heather.breslau@gmail.com>
To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:52 PM

Hi Karen,

Could you add me to the list of public commenters at next week's meeting? I've let Jane Morgan know as well. Thanks, Heather

--

Heather M. Breslau
Cell: 617-596-1361



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fwd: School Calendar Update

Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>
To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:56 PM

Please forward to full committee. Also please put Rachel on the list for public comment for next week.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rachel Bragin** <rachelbragin@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:57 PM
Subject: Re: School Calendar Update
To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Jane - thanks for the quick reply! Yes, I would like that. I'd also love to get on the list for Public Comment at the next SC meeting.

Thanks again,
Rachel

On Friday, October 16, 2020, 01:53:04 PM EDT, Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Hi Rachel,

Would you like for our administrative assistant to forward this to the rest of the committee? If so, let me know and I will pass it along to her. I would suggest that you share your thoughts with the rest of the committee. I will respond to you separately.

Best,
Jane

On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:43 PM Rachel Bragin <rachelbragin@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dr. Bodie, Ms. Morgan:

I hope this finds you both well. I'm writing to express my concern about the recent calendar changes for Thanksgiving week -- specifically, the fact that cohort AA will lose two additional days of our precious in-school time.

While I can see the appeal of an all-remote Thanksgiving week, in reality this exacerbates a discrepancy that already exists between AA and BB in-school time. The days off for Rosh Hashanah, Indigenous Peoples Day, and (soon) Election Day mean that **AA will have 3 fewer days of in-school learning** than BB this fall. I had assumed that Thanksgiving week would "even out" that situation, but now it clearly will not.

I hope that with further calendar changes, the School Committee can keep this bigger picture of total days-in-school in mind. Specifically, I hope that the **elementary conference days in December will be moved to Wednesdays**, rather than Tuesdays as they were previously scheduled. (This may already have been done, but I don't see an updated calendar online.)

Thank you for your consideration!
stay well,
Rachel Bragin
(Hardy 1st & 3rd grade)
617-290-3037

On Friday, October 16, 2020, 12:21:04 PM EDT, Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Dear APS Families,

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Sincerely,
Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

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Jane P. Morgan
Arlington School Committee
jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us

--

Jane P. Morgan
Arlington School Committee
jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Speak in Public Comment - Thursday, 10/22 SC meeting

Grant Cook <grant_cook@verizon.net>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 10:50 PM

To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Cc: callahan.tracya@gmail.com

Hi Karen,

I would like to be added to the list for public comment at this Thursday's School Committee meeting, if public comment is on the agenda. I am the parent of two children at the Dallin school.

Thank you,

Grant Cook

16 Wollaston Ave.

Arlington, MA

781 999 1961



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

[Everyone-APS] School Calendar Update

Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:16 PM

To: Everyone APS EMail Group <everyone-aps@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear All,

The School Committee has approved the updated calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. I wanted to bring your attention to the weeks of Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. In addition, Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. This change avoids the problem of the BB cohort having no in-person education those weeks. Instead, both the AA and BB cohorts will learn together in synchronous instruction in those weeks. Both Monday and Tuesday will follow a regular school day schedule. Wednesday remains remote in both weeks.

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requiring students to remain out of school for 14 days when returning from a high-risk state. Please keep this in mind as you make your travel plans.

Best regards,

Kathy

--

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us
781-316-3501

When writing or responding, please be aware that the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most e-mail is a public record and, therefore, may not be kept confidential.

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola do seu filho - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译, 请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلتك، -

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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/a/arlington.k12.ma.us/d/msgid/everyone-aps/CAAEUD-O%2BU4mk8PdzXvFDOGW2j9ghxqNJd0fzcG2jNHeYhfDgPA%40mail.gmail.com>.



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Re: School Calendar Update

April Kalix-Cattell <april.kalix.cattell@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 11:32 AM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Dear Superintendent Bodie and School Committee members,

This last minute update to the 2020-2021 school calendar, specifically to the Thanksgiving and winter break weeks, is not acceptable. **We strongly urge you to revisit that decision and reinstate November 23-24 and December 21-22 as in-person days for cohort A.**

Since the beginning we were told that cohort A's holidays (9/28, 10/12, 11/3, 12/28, 12/29, 1/18, 2/15, 2/16, 4/19, 4/20, 5/31) would be balanced out across the year with cohort B's (11/26, 11/27, 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, 1/1, 2/18, 2/19, 4/2, 4/22, 4/23). But now cohort A is missing an additional four days of in-person instruction when Cohort B was never intended to receive in-person instruction those weeks. **This increases the inequity of teaching time between A and B cohort students**, not resolves it as your email purports. How do you envision this balance will be rectified?

As working parents of a Brackett second grader, we will tell you that even with amazing and patient teachers, at-home learning with 24 second graders on Zoom is not the same as in-person with 11 students. These children are now expected to sit through 5+ hours of synchronous learning on those four Mondays and Tuesdays to duplicate the in-person school day?! It is unfair to ask them to do so. In addition, this will now require my husband and I to lose four more days of work (on weeks that are already packed with final work deadlines before holiday closures!) because we need to oversee our son's learning. **The late notice on this decision is placing an undue burden on working parents.**

We are discouraged and angry. We look forward to your response and hope you will do the right thing for students and families by reversing this decision.

Best,

April Kalix-Cattell & Joe Cattell

On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:21 PM Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

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Sincerely,
Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Re: School Calendar Update

Sara Viszmeg <sarabeautz@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 12:01 AM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "jmorgan@arlingtonk.12.ma.us" <jmorgan@arlingtonk.12.ma.us>, "lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us" <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us" <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "sbaker@arlington.k12.ma.us" <sbaker@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Stephanie Zerchykov <szerchykov@arlington.k12.ma.us>, School Committee <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear School Committee and Superintendent Bodie,

I am writing as an elementary school parent at Brackett. I am surprised, discouraged and saddened by the sudden loss of 4 more in-school days for one of the cohorts, and, I am desperately hoping that you will act right away to balance the number of in school days.

Please help the all children and families in the district in this regard by making equal the number of days right away, it makes no sense to have such disparity in our school district at a time like this, it exacerbates feelings of disparity and injustice already so prevalent in our overall society.

This makes me think, if there are some families in the cohort who are already experiencing any injustice or other forms of disparity, this action that you are taking causes increased powerlessness, vulnerability and lack of trust, will do direct harm to and compound the situation for any of those families unless it is rectified right away.

Sincerely,
Sara Beautz Viszmeg

On Friday, October 16, 2020, 12:21:07 PM EDT, Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Plea for better cohort balance

TRACY CALLAHAN <tracyacallahan16@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 17, 2020 at 11:12 AM

To: aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us

Cc: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us, jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us, whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us, pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us, kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us, lextton@arlington.k12.ma.us, lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us, jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us, TRACY CALLAHAN <TracyACallahan16@gmail.com>

Dear Dr. Bodie,

I'm sure you have been getting many emails on this topic, so I will get right to the point. I ask that you please take steps as soon as possible to mitigate the gross imbalance of the number of in-person school days for cohort A compared to cohort B.

Our family chose hybrid for our boys (a first and fourth grader) because the in-person experience is so essential for their learning and social/emotional wellbeing. Our family has made, and are making, sacrifices to attend hybrid (e.g not being with family for Thanksgiving), which makes it an especially crushing blow to have FOUR in-person days taken away. I understand there are several reasons for those particular days to be all-remote, but do strongly urge you to switch a few other days to in-person for cohort A. By the December break, cohort A will have had THREE fewer in-person days (FOUR by the end of the semester). These days are so important because for many students, including my sons, the mostly asynchronous remote days are NOT a positive learning experience. While they may work well for some, let's not fool ourselves into thinking "everything is going great" and that these remote days are what most young students need to thrive. If anything, these days are hurting my boys love for learning. I only hope it's not a permanent impact. We have yet to have a remote day without tears from at least one member of the family, if not all four of us. While the synchronous Wednesdays go somewhat better, three days in a row of that will be extra challenging, particularly for my first grader, and are not a substitute for in-person school. **Again, I implore you to take steps to create a better balance of in-person days for cohort A, BEFORE the December break.** I would suggest switching two cohort B days (one in November and one in December) to cohort A days. While I regret this means taking something away from cohort B, the imbalance is just too great.

And lastly, I just have to say that during this challenging year where it is especially important for parents to partner even more with the schools, please be open, transparent and honest with us. I don't appreciate your attempts to misrepresent rationale for high impact decisions with disingenuous falsehoods.

Sincerely,

Tracy Callahan



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Re: School Calendar Update

Krista <krista316@gmail.com>

Sat, Oct 17, 2020 at 9:51 AM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dr Bodie - Jane Morgan was kind enough to provide more context as to why the calendar change has occurred. It seems that the issue is not about equity, but the result of a teachers contract negotiation.

I understand Jane and others have asked you to address the real inequity here, the fact that cohort A gets significantly fewer in-person days than cohort B.

As good a job as everyone is doing this year, I think we all acknowledge that remote days are not nearly as rewarding as in person days. Especially for kindergarteners.

The kids (and working parents) in cohort A deserve as many in person days as cohort B. Think about how cohort A parents have to now take 4 additional days off work or pay a babysitter for 4 additional days right before the expense of the holidays. It's not only a learning inequity, but a financial and stress inequity for all.

I am asking on behalf of all Cohort A families that you move one Thursday between now and Thanksgiving (or winter break) and make it an A day, giving all families as much notice as possible.

Please let me know if this is your decision or If it needs to be voted on at the next school committee meeting.

Krista

Sent from my iPhone

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

A request to reconsider

Bailey Snyder <bailey.vatalaro@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:43 PM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Sean Snyder <snyder.sean@gmail.com>, Stephanie Zerchykov <szerchykov@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "aps_superintendent@arlington.k12" <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12>

Dear Superintendent Bodie and School Committee members,

This last minute update to the 2020-2021 school calendar, specifically to the Thanksgiving and winter break weeks, is not acceptable, particularly as working parents. We strongly urge you to revisit that decision and reinstate November 23-24 and December 21-22 as in-person days for cohort A.

Since the beginning we were told that cohort A's holidays (9/28, 10/12, 11/3, 12/28, 12/29, 1/18, 2/15, 2/16, 4/19, 4/20, 5/31) would be balanced out across the year with cohort B's (11/26, 11/27, 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, 1/1, 2/18, 2/19, 4/2, 4/22, 4/23).

But now cohort A is missing an additional four days of in-person instruction when Cohort B was never intended to receive in-person instruction those weeks. How do you envision this balance will be rectified?

As working parents of a Brackett first grader, we will tell you that even with a truly amazing and patient teacher, at-home synchronous learning with 20 first graders on zoom is not the same as in-person with 10 students. We've worked hard to keep our daughter captive, happy, and engaged with school, and it's tough to acknowledge that these children are now expected to sit through 5+ hours of synchronous learning on those four Mondays and Tuesdays to duplicate the in-person school day?! It is unfair to ask them to do so. In addition, this will now require my husband and I to lose four more days of work because we need to support our little girl, despite your best hope that they would learn to do this all independently.

We look forward to your response and hope you will do the right thing for students and families by reversing this decision. This is a lot for everyone, and we are looking to you for support.

Kind regards,

Sean and Bailey Snyder



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

School Calendar Update

Joselyn Dennis <joselyndennis@gmail.com>
To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Fri, Oct 16, 2020

Dear School Committee members,
I just received Dr. Bodie's email regarding the updated calendar and I am hoping you can explain how this change is fair for the AA Cohort who attend in-person school on Mondays and Tuesdays?

AA cohort will miss (or has already missed) all of the following holidays of in-person learning:

1. Monday, September 28th for Yom Kippur,
2. Monday, October 12th for "Columbus Day,"
3. Tuesday, November 3rd for Election Day
4. Monday, January 18th, for Martin Luther King Day
5. Monday, May 31st, for Memorial Day

So while my two AA cohort children receive only 1 day of in person learning during those weeks the BB cohort students get 2 full days of in-person learning. My children did not receive remote synchronous learning on either Thursday or Friday of those first two Monday holiday weeks, though they didn't get to attend school on Monday. I did not initially mind all the Monday holidays because I counted all the holidays and I would even out with the BB cohort missing out on:

1. Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving week
2. Thursday, December 24th, and Friday, December 25th for Christmas week
3. Friday, April 2nd, for "Good Friday"

The way the calendar was originally planned the AA cohort missed 5 in person days because of holidays and the BB cohort missed 5 in person days because of holidays, but now I am learning that the BB cohort is only missing 1 in person day because of holidays and the AA cohort is missing 5 in person days!

According to Dr. Bodie's email, **"This change avoids the problem of the BB cohort having no in-person education those weeks. Instead, both the AA and BB cohorts will learn together in synchronous instruction in those weeks."**

So please explain to me the plan for solving the problem of the AA cohort having no in-person education during all the weeks that include a Monday holiday. It seems to me that there should be equal concern for the AA students lack of in person education during those weeks.

I look forward to your response.

thank you,

Joselyn Dennis

Thompson School Parent

& Gibbs School Parent



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

A request to reconsider

Bailey Snyder <bailey.vatalaro@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:43 PM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Sean Snyder <snyder.sean@gmail.com>, Stephanie Zerchykov <szerchykov@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "aps_superintendent@arlington.k12" <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12>

Dear Superintendent Bodie and School Committee members,

This last minute update to the 2020-2021 school calendar, specifically to the Thanksgiving and winter break weeks, is not acceptable, particularly as working parents. We strongly urge you to revisit that decision and reinstate November 23-24 and December 21-22 as in-person days for cohort A.

Since the beginning we were told that cohort A's holidays (9/28, 10/12, 11/3, 12/28, 12/29, 1/18, 2/15, 2/16, 4/19, 4/20, 5/31) would be balanced out across the year with cohort B's (11/26, 11/27, 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, 1/1, 2/18, 2/19, 4/2, 4/22, 4/23).

But now cohort A is missing an additional four days of in-person instruction when Cohort B was never intended to receive in-person instruction those weeks. How do you envision this balance will be rectified?

As working parents of a Brackett first grader, we will tell you that even with a truly amazing and patient teacher, at-home synchronous learning with 20 first graders on zoom is not the same as in-person with 10 students. We've worked hard to keep our daughter captive, happy, and engaged with school, and it's tough to acknowledge that these children are now expected to sit through 5+ hours of synchronous learning on those four Mondays and Tuesdays to duplicate the in-person school day?! It is unfair to ask them to do so. In addition, this will now require my husband and I to lose four more days of work because we need to support our little girl, despite your best hope that they would learn to do this all independently.

We look forward to your response and hope you will do the right thing for students and families by reversing this decision. This is a lot for everyone, and we are looking to you for support.

Kind regards,

Sean and Bailey Snyder



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

(no subject)

Jennifer Bullock <jenflintbullock@gmail.com>
To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 2:28 PM

Hello,

I am a new to Stratton parent of a kindergartener in cohort A. I wanted to first offer thanks to you, the administration, teachers and the rest of the school committee for all you are doing during these unprecedented times. I did want to write to share concern over the change in school calendar for cohort A students, specifically with respect to Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. I understand there would be no in-person instruction for cohort B with the prior schedule, however, this schedule change will now lead to an imbalance in schedules between cohort A and B, with cohort A missing out on 4 fewer in person days. Further, it puts additional stress and burden on working parents who must arrange to manage a fully synchronous day on those weeks. I would encourage alternative arrangements to be considered to offer more in-person opportunities for cohort A - perhaps allowing Monday to be in-person for cohort A and Tuesday to be in person for cohort B on each of those weeks.

My son is in kindergarten and has made very few connections with his new school and classmates thus far given the limited in person time. He benefits greatly from a social, emotional and educational perspective to have those in-person days. Again, I would encourage alternate options to be considered to allow cohort A more in-person opportunity.

Thank you,
Jen Bullock



Revised APS Calendar: A&B Cohorts

1 message

Tracy Van Dorpe <tvandorpe@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 9:49 AM

To: Kathleen Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, Thad Dingman <tdingman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Jane Morgan

<janepmorgan@gmail.com>

Dear Superintendent Bodie -

While there has been no official communication, I learned about changes to the APS school calendar approved on October 8 through Facebook Arlington Parents and then when my fourth grader at Dallin came home distressed earlier this week hearing about the impact on Cohort A from his teacher. There are two issues that I'm writing to express my concern with: 1) the limited communication about the calendar change and 2) the inequity that the calendar change has on elementary school hybrid cohorts.

I appreciate your recent emails to families about playground use on October 9 and positive test results on October 13, but changing two weeks of schooling/schedules in the next two months seems to be an important schedule shift to share. I am a well-informed parent and the fact that the APS calendar on the website is still from June 25 and the updated cannot be easily found anywhere is absolutely ridiculous.

These issues pale, however, to actually losing this in-person time for Cohort A elementary students. We have two fourth graders in Dallin's hybrid program who are experiencing remote/virtual learning quite differently. One is doing fine. Not great, but good enough for now under the circumstances. The other is experiencing significant difficulty with remote/virtual learning that is requiring support from both school and outside resources. For all practical purposes, minimal learning is happening on Wednesday-Friday and in-person days are a lifeline for both him and the rest of the family.

Considering this, it's really hard to understand how APS administration can justify introducing such an imbalanced schedule between Cohorts A and B between now and the end of January. From an equal number of in-person days (32) and holidays (4), we are now looking at 28 in-person days, 4 remote days and 4 holidays for Cohort A, while Cohort B will continue to have 32 in-person days and 4 holidays plus the addition of 4 remote days. I cannot imagine how teachers are expected to instruct full classes on Wednesday remote days when the two cohorts experience such a discrepancy. There seems to be an intention to make up 2 of those days for Cohort A at the end of June, but that is cold comfort after losing the equivalent of 2 expected weeks in the first four months of school. And since very little happens at the end of June, if anything, those last two days of school at the end of the year should be split between A&B if we are still in the hybrid model.

Obviously all of this could be moot in a matter of weeks if the district is required to go fully remote, but for now, every single day in the classroom matters for kids who are struggling with remote/virtual. An added issue is that there's no clearly identified path for families to indicate trouble on home days - the best way to catch those in difficulty remain those check-ins on in-school days. As a member of Dallin School Council, I've encouraged Principal Dingman to deploy quick survey tools to assess student moods/resiliency/happiness so we can figure out ways to identify and support these kids before they fall too far behind, but this kind of monitoring should be happening on a district-wide level.

We are obviously experiencing a public health crisis and there is a staffing shortage at APS. This, however, seems like an inequity that could be easily balanced by twice swapping a Thursday or Friday with Cohort B between now and winter break. As families have not been officially informed of any change to the schedule yet, that kind of shift could be built into any adjustments.

I look forward to hearing back from you and the School Committee on this issue.

Sincerely,
Tracy Van Dorpe
151 Appleton Street



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

New school calendar - concerns

Melanie Riccobene Jarboe <mriccobene@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:42 PM

To: jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us

Cc: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Dear Jane,

First, I want to thank you and the other school committee members for your tireless advocacy and support on behalf of Arlington's kids throughout this trying time. I appreciate that you all have an impossible job right now and that everyone is doing their very best.

However, I'm writing with concern regarding the new school calendar. My daughter attends Peirce and is a member of Cohort A. Cohort A comes out well behind Cohort B in terms of in person days given the new calendar, and Peirce Cohort A kids lost an additional 2 days of in-person time given the timing of the COVID shutdown at the beginning of the year (Cohort B kids only lost two in-person days, but Cohort A lost four). With the new calendar, the in-person days during the Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks that would have gone some distance to closing the gap between the two cohorts are now all remote.

I hope that the school committee will help the administration to balance the in-person days between cohorts not only for the students, but also for the teachers, who will struggle to keep everyone moving forward when Cohort B has had so much more in person time already and the gap will only continue to grow.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melanie Jarboe



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

New school calendar - concerns

2 messages

Melanie Riccobene Jarboe <mriccobene@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:42 PM

To: jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us

Cc: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Dear Jane,

First, I want to thank you and the other school committee members for your tireless advocacy and support on behalf of Arlington's kids throughout this trying time. I appreciate that you all have an impossible job right now and that everyone is doing their very best.

However, I'm writing with concern regarding the new school calendar. My daughter attends Peirce and is a member of Cohort A. Cohort A comes out well behind Cohort B in terms of in person days given the new calendar, and Peirce Cohort A kids lost an additional 2 days of in-person time given the timing of the COVID shutdown at the beginning of the year (Cohort B kids only lost two in-person days, but Cohort A lost four). With the new calendar, the in-person days during the Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks that would have gone some distance to closing the gap between the two cohorts are now all remote.

I hope that the school committee will help the administration to balance the in-person days between cohorts not only for the students, but also for the teachers, who will struggle to keep everyone moving forward when Cohort B has had so much more in person time already and the gap will only continue to grow.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melanie Jarboe

Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:16 PM

To: Melanie Riccobene Jarboe <mriccobene@gmail.com>

Cc: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Hi Melanie,
Would you like for Karen to forward this to the rest of the committee? I would suggest that. I will respond to you separately.

Best,
Jane

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jane P. Morgan
Arlington School Committee
jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

updated school calendar - cohort A

Melissa Geddie <melissa.geddie@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 2:25 PM

To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald,

I am writing to express my anger about the updated school calendar, in which four in person learning days have been eliminated for cohort A prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. My children, a kindergartner and second grader, have now two weeks less in person days than cohort B.

After three weeks of doing remote learning, it is very clear that my children are learning the best when they are in school, and I look forward to hearing how the school committee plans to balance in person learning for both cohorts.

Best,
Melissa Geddie

Mother to Sam and Nathan Kagey, Stratton Elementary



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cohort A family

1 message

Janine Duffy <janinemduffy@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:49 PM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

I am writing to express dismay and outright anger at making Thanksgiving week and Christmas week all remote.

I have 3 sons who attend Stratton and Ottoson. Two of the three are Cohort A students. They will be receiving 20 in school days between the start of schools to Christmas and my Cohort B son will have 24 days.

This is completely unfair and not equitable to anyone. I have emailed Superintendent Bodie and haven't heard anything.

Thank you-

Janine

Sent from my iPhone



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Removal of Cohort AA school days deepens existing AA/BB inequity

Christa Beranek <cmberanek@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:54 PM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald and Dr. Bodie,

Please share the following with the school committee:

I was very disappointed to see that four in person school days were removed from the AA cohort's schedule by making all of the days in the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas remote. Dr. Bodie's email suggested that this was about equity, since the BB cohort would not have any in person days those weeks, but the AA students are already behind in in-person time, with three weeks of the year prior to Thanksgiving where M/T holidays resulted in them having only 1 day of in-person school.

The new plan deepens an existing inequity.

I understand that having AA get two in person days those weeks might create a curriculum imbalance between the two groups, but a more equitable solution would be to **have AA and BB cohorts each in school for 1 day of each of those holiday week (AA on Monday; BB on Tuesday).** If this discussion is truly about equity, I urge Dr. Bodie and the school committee to find another solution.

Further, **this commits AA parents to finding 4 additional days of child care.**

If parents can be expected to rearrange their work calendars for those weeks based on this announcement, the school calendar should also still be flexible, despite having already been announced.

Sincerely,
Christa

--

Dr. Christa Beranek
cmberanek@gmail.com



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fw: School Calendar Update

4 messages

Kamila Pomiecinska <kamila2178@yahoo.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 2:06 PM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Stephanie Zerchikov <szerchikov@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Hi Karen,

I meant to copy you as well to my email below. Please advise on the imbalance between in-person instruction for Cohort A vs B. With this remote schooling cohort A just lost 4 in person days of instruction. This is unacceptable!

Please advise in plans of how this will be balanced out.

Thank you,
Kamila

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

On Friday, October 16, 2020, 1:49 PM, Kamila Pomiecinska <kamila2178@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello,

I'm surprised at the decision to make the Mondays and Tuesdays of the holiday weeks remote as cohort A already missed in person school on September 29 and October 12. We were told that this would even out when the holiday weeks of a Thanksgiving and Christmas were happening. So when does cohort A make up the in-person classes. They already missed 2 school days vs cohort B. Please advise.

Also, could you send the revised calendar in an attachment. I didn't see it.

Thank you,
Kamila

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Friday, October 16, 2020, 12:21 PM, Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Dear APS Families,

The School Committee has approved the updated calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. I wanted to bring your attention to the weeks of Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. In addition, Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. This change avoids the problem of the BB cohort having no in-person education those weeks. Instead, both the AA and BB cohorts will learn together in synchronous instruction in those weeks. Both Monday and Tuesday will follow a regular school day schedule. Wednesday remains remote in both weeks.

For Menotomy Preschool students, Monday and Tuesday of those weeks will be regular in-person days, while the Wednesdays of those weeks will have 11:30 AM dismissals with no lunch served.

A few other dates to highlight in the fall are:

Tuesday, November 3 - Election Day and Professional Day for staff. There will be no school for any remote academy, hybrid, or preschool students that day.

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day. No school for students and staff.

Wednesday, November 25 - Day before Thanksgiving. This day is remote K-12, and students are dismissed at 11:30 AM at the Elementary level and 11:45 AM at the Middle and High School levels. The Preschool will be dismissed at 11:30 AM. There are no meetings for staff that day following student dismissal.

Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving holiday.

Wednesday, December 23 - Day before Winter Break. This day is remote for all students, and we will follow the regular Wednesday schedule. While this is the regular Wednesday early release for students, staff will be participating in their regular Wednesday meetings in the afternoon.

Wednesday, December 23 - Preschool students will be dismissed at 11:30

Winter Break begins on December 24 and continues through January 1. School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Please note that the Massachusetts Travel Order requires a 14-day quarantine or a negative COVID-19 test for all people returning to Massachusetts from a state considered high risk. In addition, all Town of Arlington employees are required to remain out of work upon their return to Massachusetts from a high-risk state, whether or not they obtain a negative COVID-19 test result, in order to provide greater safety in the workplace. To keep our schools open and safe, the District is also requiring students to remain out of school for 14 days when returning from a high-risk state. Please keep this in mind as you make your travel plans.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

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Kamila Pomiecinska <kamila2178@yahoo.com>
To: APS Superintendent <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>
Cc: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Stephanie Zerchykov <szerchykov@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 2:31 PM

Hello Superintendent Bodie,

Not sure if your reply is an automated message or an actual reply. I'm very concerned about the inequities of in-school instruction between cohort A and cohort B and am looking for input how you are planning on addressing these between the two cohorts. I appreciate knowing that you received my email but I'm looking for input from the school administration on this inequity issue.

We have a first grader and remote learning is a challenge. That is why we are risking health and doing the hybrid program because a 6 year old should not be taught via a computer. At this young age kids need a lot of help with online schooling and it's really not effective. We have 2 working parents and it's a full-time job to oversee the online schooling on remote days. Please address how taking away 4 in school days from cohort A is fair and equitable to what cohort B is receiving.

Thank you,
Kamila

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Friday, October 16, 2020, 2:08 PM, APS Superintendent <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Pomiecinska,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns.

Regards,

Kathleen Bodie
[Quoted text hidden]

--

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Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us

Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>
To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsil Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:24 PM

fyi
[Quoted text hidden]
--
Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee
Superintendent of Schools
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476
781-316-3540
kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us
[Quoted text hidden]

Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:25 PM

To: Kamila Pomieciniska <kamila2178@yahoo.com>

Cc: APS Superintendent <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Stephanie Zerchykov <szerchykov@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Kamila,

Thank you for your email. *All comments and questions received by the School Committee by the date and time indicated will become part of the packet and public record and will be shared with the full School Committee and administration before the meeting via email. No written comments will be read at the meeting. For members of the public who wish to address the Committee on the Zoom call, there will be 30 minutes of public comment. Depending on how many people sign up, time allotments may be reduced but will not exceed three minutes each. If the number of people who sign up exceeds what can be reasonably done in 30 minutes, the number of speakers will be capped and will be invited to speak based on the timestamp of their email to Ms. Fitzgerald. If you would like to sign up to speak please email kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2020.*

Karen

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee
Superintendent of Schools
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476
781-316-3540
kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

[Quoted text hidden]



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Re: School Calendar Update

3 messages

Karin Moellering <karin.moellering@googlemail.com>
To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Thu, Oct 15, 2020 at 4:28 AM

Dear Karen,

I am writing because I am more than disappointed that the two cohorts get such an unequal amount of in-person time as a result of this email.

So far cohort A is already at -2 compared to cohort B, as cohort A already had two days off where they missed in-person instruction. With this decision we end up with 7 days of missing in-person instruction for cohort A until Christmas vs 2 days of missing in-person instruction for cohort B. How is that justified and fair? We are talking about 2.5 weeks of in-person instruction in the hybrid world.

Especially at the lower elementary level, remote days are NO substitute for what is accomplished during in-person days.

I am really disappointed that one cohort will be so disadvantaged, and that the school committee backed this!
Karin Moellering

On Thu, Oct 15, 2020 at 4:20 AM Karin Moellering <karin.moellering@googlemail.com> wrote:
Mrs Bodie,

I think those additional remote days for the AA cohort are highly unfair!

Cohort A already had two days off where they missed in-person instruction. So it is only fair if cohort B had the two Thanksgiving days off, then we are equal.

The additional day on Nov 3 is again taking away in-person learning from cohort A. When is cohort A getting all those in-person days back? Especially at the lower elementary level, remote days are no substitute for what is accomplished during in-person days.

I am really disappointed that one cohort will be so disadvantaged.
Karin Moellering

On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:21 PM Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:
Dear APS Families,

The School Committee has approved the updated calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. I wanted to bring your attention to the weeks of Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. In addition, Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. This change avoids the problem of the BB cohort having no in-person education those weeks. Instead, both the AA and BB cohorts will learn together in synchronous instruction in those weeks. Both Monday and Tuesday will follow a regular school day schedule. Wednesday remains remote in both weeks.

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Sincerely,
Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us> Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 2:54 PM
To: Jane Morgan <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kirsii Allison-Ampe <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Len Kardon <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Liz Exton <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Paul Schlichtman <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "Thielman, Jeff" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, William Hayner <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <kbodie@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Roderick MacNeal <rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us>

FYI

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Karen Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee
Superintendent of Schools
869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor

Arlington, MA 02476
781-316-3540
kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>
To: Karin Moellering <karin.moellering@googlemail.com>
Bcc: "Fitzgerald, Karen" <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 2:56 PM

Hi Karin,

Thank you for your email.

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Karen

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

unequitable availability of in-person days for (elementary) students in Cohort AA

Maxie Schmidt <maxie.schmidt@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:29 PM

To: Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kathleen Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Hi Karen and Kathleen,

Hope all is well with you.

I am writing to tell you that I am disappointed that decisions are being made that apparently don't consider the effect on the AA cohort kids whose in-person get slashed more and more.

Before the latest change there was already an imbalance and cohort AA got fewer in-person days. Now that imbalance has greatly increased. That is not an equitable solution. Especially at the lower elementary level, remote days are NO substitute for what is accomplished during in-person days.

Please consider what can be done to address this imbalance. If it's important to not have in-person teaching before holidays, fine. But can you please find another solution for how the cohort in-person days can be balanced?

Please also consider the effect on working parents. You asked us to be flexible and we are. But every schedule change has a ripple effect. And if you add a remote day to the schedule of working parents it's a huge challenge to manage this.

Thank you,
Maxie



Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

RE: School Calendar Update

2 messages

Iain King <iain.King@sopheon.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:04 PM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: "jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us" <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us" <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us" <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us" <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us" <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us" <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dr Bodie,

Please explain how the decision to reduce cohort AA's in person learning by 4 days is equitable to those families? AA has already lost 2 days to holidays so far, and now loses another 4 (In addition to Election day.

Those of us who chose hybrid, chose this because we believe that in person learning is the most effective method to achieve learning. These decisions continue to erode this critical structured learning time. Our kids are already experiencing significantly less structured learning time than the state guidelines require. This only makes it worse.

Regards, Iain

From: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 12:21 PM

To: Iain King <iain.King@sopheon.com>

Subject: School Calendar Update

Dear APS Families,

The School Committee has approved the updated calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. I wanted to bring your attention to the weeks of Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:16 PM

To: Iain King <Iain.King@sopheon.com>

Cc: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us" <jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us" <kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us" <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us" <whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us" <lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us" <pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us" <jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Iain,

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Karen

[Quoted text hidden]

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Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Inequity on in-person learning days and opportunities

Katrina Vinck Baker <Narikta@hotmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:04 PM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us"

<jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: "lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us" <lexton@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Scott Baker <scottbaker38@gmail.com>,

"ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us" <ktassone@arlington.k12.ma.us>, "kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us"

<kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Dr Bodie and School Committee Members,

We were frustrated to read your email regarding moving all students to remote learning on the Mondays/Tuesdays in the Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks.

Arlington Public School hybrid model families were told by District Administration that, while Cohort A misses more learning days over the school year for Holiday observances than Cohort B, the discrepancy between the amount of learning opportunities and in-person days Cohort A children would miss VS Cohort B children for would be minimal.

So you must understand that by moving all children to remote learning for those four days, and thus Cohort B not missing those days for Holiday observance, that does the following:

- Gives Cohort B children four more learning days they would otherwise not have had, and further advances their curriculum learning ahead of their Cohort A peers
- Takes four in-person learning days away from Cohort A children, harming their social-emotional well-being in the process

You must also understand the additional burden placed on Cohort A families to make arrangements to be present and available to assist their child/ren's learning, especially if their children are not independent learners (K-2, specifically)

We have a first grader who is in Cohort A at the Peirce School. Between Covid shut downs and two Holiday observances, she has had a total of three days in-person since the beginning of the (delayed) school year. In comparison to her Cohort B peers, who have had six days in-person. Had Peirce not been affected by Covid, Cohort A would have had four days in person (like other Cohort A children in Arlington) in comparison to the six their Cohort B peers have had.

Cohort A is missing yet another in-person learning day for Election Day in November.

Making sure Cohort B has in-person learning days is a completely indefensible justification for this action, and you are woefully failing Cohort A children in the process. It's not equitable, and it is not acceptable.

Katrina and Scott Baker

Re: School Calendar Update

Amy McCann Antczak <amymccann@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:38 PM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Karen Fitzgerald <kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Dear Superintendent Bodie and the School Committee,

I urge you to reconsider the changes to the school calendar that were just announced. Taking away 4 additional in-person school days for Cohort AA, who already lose so many in-person school days due to Yom Kippur, Columbus Day, Election Day, MLK Day, etc., is completely unfair to those Cohort AA children and their parents. Not only do the children lose precious in-school time with their teacher and classmates, but parents also lose the after-school care that is provided by the elementary schools on the in-person days. My children are both in kindergarten and the in-person school days are essential to their learning. With all due respect to the teachers who are doing an amazing job, the remote days are simply not the same as the in-person days for the youngest learners. The fact that Cohort AA will now have significantly less in-person days than Cohort BB is simply unfair. If the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas must remain all-remote, then I urge you to switch some BB in-person days to AA at some point this fall to make things equitable.

I would greatly appreciate additional communication from the district about how to make the school calendar equitable among the two hybrid cohorts.

Thank you,
Amy Antczak

On Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 12:21 PM Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

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Sincerely,
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Re: School Calendar Update

2 messages

Amy Hampe <amy.hampe@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 3:00 PM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Cc: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, James Hampe <james.hampe@gmail.com>

Dear Superintendent Bodie and School Committee members,

This last minute update to the 2020-2021 school calendar, specifically to the Thanksgiving and winter break weeks, is not acceptable. We strongly urge you to revisit that decision and reinstate November 23-24 and December 21-22 as in-person days for cohort A.

Since the beginning we were told that cohort A's holidays (9/28, 10/12, 11/3, 12/28, 12/29, 1/18, 2/15, 2/16, 4/19, 4/20, 5/31) would be balanced out across the year with cohort B's (11/26, 11/27, 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, 1/1, 2/18, 2/19, 4/2, 4/22, 4/23).

But now cohort A is missing an additional four days of in-person instruction when Cohort B was never intended to receive in-person instruction those weeks. How do you envision this balance will be rectified?

As working parents of a Brackett first grader, we will tell you that even with an amazing and patient teacher, at-home synchronous learning with 20 first graders on zoom is not the same as in-person with 10 students. Our son can barely manage to make it through the 3 hours of synchronous learning on Wednesdays, so these children are now expected to sit through 5+ hours of synchronous learning on those four Mondays and Tuesdays to duplicate the in-person school day?! It is unfair to ask them to do so. In addition, this will now require my husband and I to lose four more days of work because we need to oversee our son, despite your best hope that they would learn to do this all independently.

We look forward to your response and hope you will do the right thing for students and families by reversing this decision.

Kind regards,
Amy & Jim Hampe

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FYI

[Quoted text hidden]

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Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee

Superintendent of Schools

869 Massachusetts Avenue, 6th Floor

Arlington, MA 02476

781-316-3540

kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us

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label:covid-19-emails-calendar-update

Compose

Covid-19 Emails

- 04 2020 GENERAL
- 06 2020 Gen'l emails
- Calendar update** 11
- Concerns about Fall r...
- Covid 06 2020
- COVID emails 05 2020
- General emails 05 2020
- Missed the Survey
- SURVEY 04 2020 Res...
- Dallin

Meet

New meeting

My meetings New

Hangouts

Re: School Calendar Update Covid-19 Emails/Calendar



Emily Holler

to me, Jane, whayner, pschlichtman, lkardon, Liz, kallisonampe, Jeff
Sup. Bodie and Arlington School Committee Members,

Let's start by listing the days that **Cohort AA is not receiving in-person** education.

Yom Kippur: Monday, Sept. 28th

Columbus Day: Monday, October 12th

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3rd

Thanksgiving Week: Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 23-24

Christmas Week: Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21-22

MLK Day: Monday, Jan 18th

Let's now list the days that **cohort BB is not receiving in-person** education.

Thanksgiving Week: Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 23-24

Christmas Week: Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21-22

Taking away in-person learning from Cohort AA on the Thanksgiving and Christmas week. Several parents with kids in cohort AA have made the joke that Christmas week. That has now been taken away from us, and I do not understand.

We are all struggling with remote days. Six year olds are not meant to be especially when learning to read and write. Help me to understand how

Please reconsider this poor planning and recognise that Cohort AA has is, and young children (I'm particularly addressing K-2) need to be in the

Sincerely,
Emily Holler



APS Superintendent <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Re: School Calendar Update

1 message

Ellen Pfeiffer <pfeiffer.d.e@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 16, 2020 at 1:46 PM

To: Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us>, Kate Peretz <kperetz@arlington.k12.ma.us>

Thanks so much. Do you realize that now the school committee is taking additional in person days away from cohort AA, so it is now even more imbalanced for AA vs BB? We already missed two Mondays, while cohort BB has missed none of their in person days. Moving forward, the imbalance will grow:

AA will miss in person days on the following dates, for vacation or for remote learning:

Nov 3

Nov 23-24

Dec 21-22

Dec 26-27

Jan 18

Feb 15-16

Apr 19-20

May 31

Including previous holidays, AA misses a total of 15 possible in person days.

Compare this to cohort BB. They have not missed any in-person days yet. In the future, they will miss:

Nov 26-27

Dec 24-25

Dec 31-Jan 1

Feb 18-19

Apr 2

Apr 22-23

That's a total of 11 in person days missed.

As you can see, cohort AA will miss 36% more in-person days. That is quite significant. Is there a way to add more in person days back in for cohort AA to balance the scales?

Ellen Pfeiffer, Hardy School

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 16, 2020, at 12:21 PM, Superintendent Bodie <aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us> wrote:

Dear APS Families,

The School Committee has approved the updated calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. I wanted to bring your attention to the weeks of Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

Monday, November 23, and Tuesday, November 24 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. In addition, Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 will be remote for all students, except for preschool students. This change avoids the problem of the BB cohort having no in-person education those weeks. Instead, both the AA and BB cohorts will learn together in synchronous instruction in those weeks. Both Monday and Tuesday will follow a regular school day schedule. Wednesday remains remote in both weeks.

The Safety of Our Remote Schooling Technology

Jason Moreau <jaymoreau@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 11:50 PM

To: kfitzgerald@arlington.k12.ma.us, jmorgan@arlington.k12.ma.us, whayner@arlington.k12.ma.us, pschlichtman@arlington.k12.ma.us, kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us, lextan@arlington.k12.ma.us, lkardon@arlington.k12.ma.us, jthielman@arlington.k12.ma.us, aps_superintendent@arlington.k12.ma.us, rmacneal@arlington.k12.ma.us, eliner@arlington.k12.ma.us, mmcaneny@arlington.k12.ma.us
Cc: Janna Moreau <jannacnm@gmail.com>

Dear School Leadership Team,

I understand the difficult circumstances of these times make it challenging to execute a remote curriculum. On numerous occasions, we have attempted to give feedback and voice concerns over plans as they were developing and have been largely ignored.

School committee meetings provide no real forum for feedback, only to submit emails and questions in advance that may or may not be brought up in the meeting. The parent information sessions are effectively the repackaging of previously sent emails in presentation form and largely focus on hybrid logistics. These events leave little time for parent feedback and questions submitted in advance of the meetings are ignored.

We chose to go full remote rather than take a gamble on a hybrid plan that wasn't fully formed at the time we were forced to choose. It feels as though the school district is putting much less of an effort into making the remote curriculum work than we are on plans for the hybrid cohorts. We are fortunate to have a wonderful teacher for our oldest child's full remote schooling who has tried her best to make this difficult situation work with the constraints she has been given.

The school expects parents to provide a learning environment for our children for 3-5 days a week yet didn't invite parents to the table to discuss their needs, nor did the board take advantage of community resources and expertise to make sure that we get this right. My impression from following the development of the curriculum is that the teachers were shut out of the planning as well.

The following are a list of some serious shortcomings with the current remote curriculum. Although I don't have children in the hybrid rendition of remote days, I would imagine that there is some overlap, and that all Arlington children are facing these issues.

- 1) **The school has been advising parents that adults should not be in the room around a device connected to the Internet.** This is dangerous and inappropriate for younger children. In-person schools aren't even allowed to leave a classroom without an adult in the room for these children. In remote school, it is somehow best practice for them to not have adult supervision while school is sending them assorted Youtube links and they have the capability to open up additional tabs that teachers cannot see.
- 2) **Students have had Zoom accounts created in their name.** At some point early in the school year, we could not connect to our child's classroom without him first creating a SpyPonders Zoom account. As a result, the Zoom app allows these younger students to have side communication with each other without the teacher knowing, being able to sideload apps from the zoom app store and allows them to schedule their own video conferences with classmates on the side.

3) **Unstructured but supervised social time with peers is not built into the schedule.** If you don't build unstructured socialization time into the school day when remote, then students are going to figure out ways to get around the system in order to interact with their friends through side channels. Tools like shared google docs or zoom chat during the school day are easy workarounds. Peer socialization should be considered a critical part of the daily curriculum. Screen break times should not be replaced with additional video conferencing socialization as screen breaks are also a critical need.

4) **Oversharing of our child's personal data.** Beyond the known exposure of their full names, grade, and the town that they live in, how much additional personal information about our children has been shared with the various third-party sites that we are leveraging during this time? What are you doing to protect their information?

5) **What are you doing to protect our children from potential bullying and Internet predators?** Now that our kids can now schedule their own Zoom meetings, then anyone can join their meetings, not just kids from the Arlington schools (I have verified this by testing from an external account). Kids can be Zoom-bombed when setting up private chats. These meetings can not only be scheduled during the school day but their SpyPonders Zoom accounts let them schedule meetings after school as well.

6) **There has been a lack of consideration when it comes to the psychological and physiological impact of 6 hours of screen time in a school day.** As someone who works in technology and has spent many hours working at a desk, I have dealt with repetitive stress injuries and eyestrain that necessitated ergonomic consults and rehabilitation. I know first-hand how mentally draining it is to spend a full work day in video conferencing and I can see it in my child's face that it takes the same toll on him.

We have taken steps in our home to introduce additional parental control software in order to reduce the chances that our child might see something that he cannot unsee. Tools such as Google SafeSearch and content filtering only go so far, if you put a child in front of an Internet-connected device unattended for prolonged periods of time, they are bound to find something inappropriate if they are curious enough.

We did not choose the Chromebook because we were concerned that they might not be locked down enough and knew we would not have administrative access. If we block Zoom on our child's laptop then he can't attend school, but the app is clearly not safe for my 4th grader to be running with the current permissions provided by the platform.

I ask that you please take these issues seriously and do more to gather input from the community. The parents of Arlington have now become part of the equation when it comes to creating a school learning environment, and we need to be heard and we need to be informed about plans with some opportunity given for real feedback.

Jason Moreau
Bishop Parent