



# Chelmsford School Department School Committee

## *Notice of Public Meeting*

Email Posting to [townclerk@townofchelmsford.us](mailto:townclerk@townofchelmsford.us) Thank you.

Filed with Town Clerk:

As required by G.L. c. 30 A, §18-25

**DATE: Monday April 13, 2020 TIME: 6:00 p.m. ROOM: Virtual Meeting**

**PLACE: Virtual Remote GoToMeeting ADDRESS: On-Line Meeting**

The Chelmsford School Committee intends to conduct a virtual remote meeting using the GoToMeeting electronic platform. All participation will take place remotely, not in-person. The meeting will be live-streamed by Chelmsford Telemedia and posted to the CPS website for interested community members to access and watch. Interested community members may submit comments through either the School Committee Chair, Mr. Dennis King, via e-mail to [kingd@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:kingd@chelmsford.k12.ma.us), or Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jay Lang, via e-mail to [langj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:langj@chelmsford.k12.ma.us) during the meeting. Comments submitted will be read under the public participation portion(s) of the agenda.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **CHAIR OPENING STATEMENT**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The School Committee will hear from members of the public on items listed under New Business on the posted agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Decision on the Status of April School Vacation Week

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The School Committee will hear from members of the public on general matters of education interest.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

## **Memorandum**

To: Members of the School Committee  
From: Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Date: April 13, 2020  
Re: Status of the April School Vacation Week

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On Wednesday April 8, 2020, I sent a communication to the parents of CPS students to solicit feedback about the upcoming April school vacation week and whether to maintain the scheduled break or cancel it and continue with schooling. Below is a copy of the information communicated to parents:

Good Afternoon Parents,

There has been talk statewide about the upcoming April school vacation week and whether communities will maintain the scheduled break or cancel it and continue with schooling. There are two schools of thought on the matter and I outline them for you below:

### **A rationale for keeping the scheduled April school vacation week:**

Some educators and parents feel they need a break after a few weeks of at-home enrichment activities and the start of remote learning. They feel the break would be beneficial and provide time to relax and rejuvenate without the expectations and structure of remote learning. If we maintain the scheduled April school vacation (April 20 – 24, 2020), the last scheduled day of school for students will be Monday June 22, 2020.

### **A rationale for canceling the scheduled April school vacation week:**

Some educators and parents feel they are settled in for remote learning, have re-engaged students and should maintain momentum now with the remote learning structure in place. They have had to cancel or postpone plans for April school vacation week due to the stay-at-home guidance from the state and will be home anyway. If we cancel and work through the scheduled April school vacation (April 20 – 24, 2020), the last scheduled day of school for students will be Tuesday June 16, 2020.

### **Under either scenario:**

Monday April 20, 2020, Patriots' Day, is a state holiday. There will be no school scheduled that day.

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Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

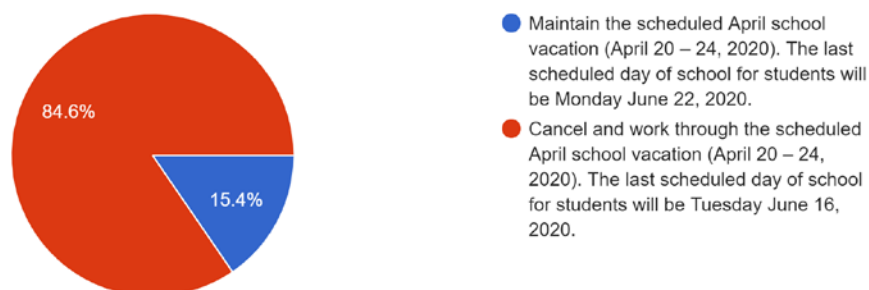
I have been in regular communication with our union leadership throughout the school closure and a recent survey of their membership indicates a significant majority, approximately 85% of respondents, express a desire to cancel the April school vacation week and continue with remote learning. They feel the new framework for remote learning has provided structure to reengagement of students and they would like to maintain momentum with learning activities and newly established routines.

Given the information above, I am working with the school committee to solicit feedback from parents on their preference with regard to April school vacation. To that end, I have attached a link to a one (1) question survey to obtain your input. I ask that you take a moment to complete the survey to help inform our decision on the matter.

The school committee will be convening next Monday April 13, 2020 to review the results of the survey and make a final determination of whether to maintain the scheduled April school vacation break or cancel it and continue with schooling. The survey may be accessed at the following link: <https://forms.gle/AC52rhdYU7tSzZvX7>.

I left the survey open for responses through 11:30 a.m. this morning. A total of 2,611 responses were received. 2,028 respondents (approximately 85%) indicated a desire to cancel and work through the scheduled April school vacation (April 20 – 24, 2020). Therefore, the last scheduled day of school for students would be Tuesday June 16, 2020. 403 respondents (approximately 15%) indicated a desire to maintain the scheduled April school vacation (April 20 – 24, 2020). The last scheduled day of school for students would be Monday June 22, 2020. Please see the chart below.

On the matter of the upcoming April school vacation week, I feel the school committee should:  
2,611 responses



Based upon the significant majority of respondents outlined above, I recommend the school committee vote to officially cancel and work through the scheduled April school

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Jay Lang, Ed.D., Superintendent

vacation (April 20 – 24, 2020). Therefore, the last scheduled day of school for students will be Tuesday June 16, 2020. As previously mentioned, I have been in regular contact with our teachers' union leadership throughout the closure. In a survey of their staff, it has been reported to me that approximately 85% of their staff expressed a desire to cancel and work through the scheduled April school vacation (April 20 – 24, 2020). If the school committee concurs with this recommendation, I will notify the teachers' union and execute an agreement memorializing this action.