

Dear BPS Community,

Over the last several days Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, Boston School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson, and I have been in conversation together about the Boston Public Schools (BPS)—our progress, future, and leadership. Today, we are announcing a mutual decision that the Superintendent will transition out of her role leading the district at the end of this school year.

We have come to this decision after careful deliberation, with mutual respect for all involved and an acknowledgment that there is much work still to be done this school year and beyond. I am so grateful for the Superintendent's leadership, especially while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, and for her courage in addressing needed structural changes within our district. She has given Boston three years of strong leadership and service, and we are a better city for it.

Dr. Cassellius has been and remains an incredible champion of our children, and for equity. Her contributions have made BPS stronger today and have set the City up for future successes. Under her leadership BPS has:

- Created a school quality guarantee so every school has access to a social worker, nurse, family liaison, guidance counselor, school psychologist, and librarian to provide a full range of supports to each student;
- Increased rigor and high expectations across all schools with implementation of the MassCore academic standards;
- Made important progress toward greater equity, inclusion and justice by reforming grading, attendance, student privacy, and selective admissions policies; and,
- Championed greater transparency and authentic engagement with students, parents and community members.

As we look to build on these successes, I am also focused on expanding access to early childhood education, reimagining BPS facilities to advance learning, and ensuring excellence across the district, including in all our high schools. The next senior leader of the district will need to be ready to execute quickly, and I will be working in close partnership with the School Committee to move forward the search process for a permanent Superintendent.

I am grateful that Superintendent Cassellius will continue to lead BPS through the remainder of this school year to ensure a strong finish to the semester and a smooth transition for our BPS students, families, and dedicated school leaders and staff. The reforms that the Superintendent will continue to lead during this time will set our course for the coming years.

We will have more to share in the weeks to come on new leadership for BPS, but for today, please join Chair Robinson and me in thanking and celebrating Superintendent Cassellius for her service, and for her unwavering commitment to Boston's youth.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Wu