

May 6, 2021

Dear Jackson/Mann School Community:

Thank you to those of you who were able to join last night's community meeting. If you weren't able to make the meeting you can watch the recording here and below is a summary of what was discussed.

As I said last night, the Jackson/Mann School is a special community. I thank you for your ongoing feedback and engagement with us as we work together to modernize and increase access to high-quality schools through the [BuildBPS education and facilities planning process](#).

In March 2019 we visited the Jackson/Mann community to address concerns with the physical school building that led the district to request a proactive facility assessment. At our request, the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department (PFD) commissioned a full-scale external engineering review of all the buildings systems. The engineering report's findings suggested that keeping the site open long term is not a viable option. To that effect, short-term repairs were made to extend the useful life of the building through the 2020-2021 school year.

In March 2020, we announced at a community meeting the plans to relocate the school community for the school year 2021-2022. Through the spring and winter of 2020, the district launched two surveys for families and staff to gather feedback on several options for the future of Jackson/Mann. In November 2020, another community meeting was held to announce a one-year delay for the relocation of the school community.

Last night, after much consideration and input from families, we decided the best option for the Jackson/Mann school is to close its doors in June 2022, at the end of the next school year, due to the state of the facility. Current Jackson/Mann students will be given priority in the school registration process at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

The decision to close was not easy and we know this information will take time to process. We want you to know that we are here for you and your students. We will support you to make this a smooth transition for everyone.

While this is a difficult decision, it will provide us the opportunity to give access to a higher quality facility for students of the Jackson/Mann. In addition, families will be able to enter the school choice process to select schools closer to home. We are working with the school leader and community to determine next steps.


We will work with the Office of Special Education (OSE) and the Office of English Learners (OEL) to ensure that students in specialized programs receive adequate options during this period of transition. The district will be presenting this plan to the Boston School Committee on Wednesday, May 12. You can read materials and watch the meeting live through this link on the [Boston School Committee's website](#) (both will be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting).



Thank you for your continued engagement and we look forward to continuing to engage with you over the coming months about how to best support your students through this transition.

We look forward to answering your questions and continue partnering to improve opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Cassellius".

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent

