

February 7, 2022

Dear BPS Community,

For the past three years, the students and families of Boston Public Schools, and our community's vision for our district, have been at the center of every decision I make. So it is today as I share with you that I will be transitioning from my role as Superintendent at the end of the school year.

When I arrived in Boston in July 2019, I couldn't have predicted that eight months later the world as we knew it would change. Since then we've confronted a global pandemic, reckoned with escalating racial division and civil unrest, and worked to repair community relationships that had eroded trust in our schools and confidence in our city. It is nothing short of remarkable that in the midst of it all we also developed a community-wide vision for equitable and excellent schools in every neighborhood of Boston; made historic steps forward in expanding access to our nation-leading exam schools; implemented a rigorous set of high graduation standards for every high school in the district with adoption of the MassCore; and put in place more just and transparent attendance, code of conduct, student privacy and grading policies.

None of this work happens in a vacuum or as the result of one leader. I have been fortunate to work with a talented team of education professionals, school leaders, educators and central staff personnel who have supported and challenged me, and who serve BPS with passion and distinction.

I have also been blessed to have worked alongside three dedicated mayors who have served as thought partners, mentors and friends. My full gratitude goes to former Mayor Kim Janey for her leadership during a time of transition for the City and to Mayor Wu for setting a vision for BPS that puts children firmly at the center. And I am forever grateful to former Mayor Marty Walsh for a phone call more than three years ago that eventually brought me to Boston; his support, wise counsel and leadership forever changed the course of my professional career. I am equally grateful to the members, past and present, of the Boston School Committee who have set a high standard of excellence, supported me and my team, and held us accountable to the children of Boston. Their dedication and service, which is often overlooked, gets the recognition it deserves.

I am grateful to you - the entire BPS community of families, partners, supporters and loyal critics - for elevating your voices about the things you care about. Your insight and wisdom, and your willingness to share hard feedback made our decisions better and our work more impactful. The passion with which so many in our community speak out, advocate, and stand up for BPS is a reflection of how deeply we care about our students and our schools.

And most especially, to the students of Boston Public Schools: you are the reason I come to work every day. You have inspired me with your ideas, your creativity, your resilience and your voices. I will carry you and your incredible potential with me long after my time in Boston has come to an end. I am beyond proud of your resilience and brilliance.



In the coming months I look forward to working closely with Mayor Wu, my team and my incoming successor to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. As I said when I arrived in Boston, this work requires all hands on deck. My hands - and my heart - will be fully committed to BPS until it is time to pass the baton. Until then, my sleeves are rolled up because we still have work to do.

With gratitude,

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

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent