

December 26, 2013

To: Members of the Northborough-Southborough Educational Community  
From: Charles E. Gobron, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Re: School Calendar Study Group Recommendation

This past fall a School Calendar Study Group was formulated to make a recommendation to the Northborough, Southborough, and Regional School Committees for the 2014-2015 School Calendar. Study group members, consisting of parents, teachers, and administrators who volunteered to be part of this effort, met three times, October 1<sup>st</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and November 19<sup>th</sup>. The recommended calendar was presented to the School Committees on December 18<sup>th</sup>. A short discussion took place at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Further discussion is on the agenda for Wednesday, January 29, 2014, and final discussion and a vote is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014.

The recommended calendar has been posted on the website for public comment. The following are the highlights of the recommendations of the School Calendar Study Group:

1. The recommended calendar is for one year only. The School Calendar Study Group members would like to reconvene next year to continue conversations about future calendars. The final decision on school calendars belongs to the School Committees.
2. The recommended calendar for the 2014-2015 school year calls for three teacher days before the start of school rather than the traditional two.
3. Two full-day professional development days will be scheduled. One on Friday, October 10, 2014 and the other on Monday, December 1, 2014.
4. Classes would be held on Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday. Yom Kippur falls on a Saturday. All students and staff members who do not attend school on these days for religious reasons will be excused. Teachers will be asked not to give tests on these days and major sports games will not be scheduled. The district's commitment to diversity will continue. Calendar Study Group members felt strongly that because of the growing diversity of the communities, continuing to have no school on selected religious holidays would necessitate considering holidays of other religions as well.
5. In order to hold classes on Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday, a change in the existing School Committee Policy I-100 would need to be made. This policy stipulates that classes will not be held on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Good Friday.

Members of the Northborough-Southborough Educational Community are invited to comment on the proposed 2014-2015 School Calendar. An e-mail may be sent to [clepore@nsboro.k12.ma.us](mailto:clepore@nsboro.k12.ma.us) or letters can be addressed to the school committees c/o Office of the Superintendent, 53 Parkerville Rd. Southborough, MA 01772.