



# LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 13, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last Thursday the School Committee and administrative team discussed the results of the school calendar survey that was sent to the community. The impetus for the survey was the concern that school has gone late into June in a number of recent years, causing complications for a number of families. Questions on the survey were centered around whether or not to observe the holidays of Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday, and also around the full day currently provided for parent conferences. In addition, four calendar options were given, two of which started before Labor Day, and two after. Respondents were asked to choose the one they preferred.

The results of the survey can be summarized as follows:

- 363 people responded to the survey.
- While the majority of responses from both parents and faculty indicated a preference to attend school on the above three holidays, at least 30% believed school should not be in session.
- Providing the necessary substitute coverage for those holidays would require hiring between 12 and 19 substitutes. Finding this many substitutes on a given day would compromise instruction, and place a high logistical burden on the district.
- Information gathered regarding the parent conference day indicated that time might be more effectively used by eliminating the full day. This decision would require negotiation with the Lincoln Teachers Association.
- 59% of respondents preferred a post-Labor Day start for the 2014-15 school year.

As a result of the survey, the administration proposed "Option E" (see attached) which includes the following parameters:

- Students start after Labor Day (September 2nd)
- Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday will be observed (Yom Kippur falls on a Saturday)
- No full day for parent conferences.
- Closing day for all students is June 24th (this includes using 5 snow days, release could be earlier depending on the weather).

The School Committee expects to have a "2nd read" of and vote on the "Option E" calendar at its January 23rd meeting.

We thank all those who took time to participate in the survey and to provide feedback to the School Committee. This was invaluable information, and it will continue to guide calendar decisions in the next several years.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Glass for the School Committee