

## The Brooklyn Schools

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Dear Parents,

This letter is to provide an additional communication regarding the various decisions that have been made lately. Most families are aware of the discussions that the Brooklyn Board of Education and the Town of Brooklyn have had regarding reductions that were made to the budget as well as various budget shortfalls. This has been a difficult few months as Brooklyn has awaited the State budget and reviewed the impact to the school district.

On December 4th after weeks of discussion and consideration, the Board of Education responded to recommendations by myself and school administration to make the following reductions:

1. Elimination of technical education at Brooklyn Middle School
2. Elimination of health instruction as a separate class at Brooklyn Elementary School
3. Reduction of one custodian
4. Creation of a **common schedule** at BMS and BES to reduce to buses. Due to the need to maximize buses used across the district, we will be starting a common schedule, **8:45-3:15 at both BMS and BES**. We are currently working with the bus company and **hope to implement this in mid January**. I will notify you through School Messenger once the new bus routes are created. The routes will be posted to the Brooklyn Public Schools' website at [www.brooklynschools.org](http://www.brooklynschools.org)
5. The Preschool schedule will be shortened slightly to support the consideration of reducing a bus for the mid-day. This schedule will also allow us to meet teachers' contractual obligation to provide duty free lunch and planning between the morning and afternoon sessions. This is necessary due to the reduction in specials classes at the elementary school, which is when planning periods typically occur. **This new schedule will begin on January 2, 2018.**  
AM PK: 8:45-11:30am      PM PK: 12:30-3:15pm
6. There were also reduction in hours to: the Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA), Financial Secretary and to Mr. Yanku, the BMS Principal. These reductions were made to try to minimize the reduction of more classroom teachers.
7. The administration gave up raises and multiple benefits they are entitled to under their contract.
8. The certified and non-certified staff agreed to furlough two days. This means they gave up two days of pay. The two days that were cancelled due to the street conditions following power outages on October 30th and 31st **WILL NOT BE MADE UP AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**. By law students are required to be in school 180 days. Since Brooklyn had 182 days scheduled, we will still meet the guidelines by not making these days up.

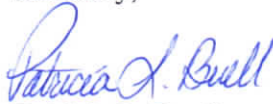
I would like to recognize the staff and community members of Brooklyn. They have come together to support the education of our students by working together and being creative to meet the budget shortfalls without too many disruptions to students. Many of you have emailed or communicated directly with me about your thoughts and then you showed up in force at the Town Meeting last night to vote to transfer money into the school budget to meet the budget needs this year.

I understand that there are some families that are impacted by the change in the schedule. I am sorry. I realize that this is a less than ideal time to make these changes. If you have before or after school care needs, I have collaborated with Brooklyn Parks and Recreation who are committed to helping you and your families. If you are interested in before or after school care you can call Mr. Bucky Lohbusch at (860) 779-3411 ext. 4.

Once we have the new bus schedules we will also update the traffic pattern for parent pick up and drop off. We realize this new schedule will take some time to get used to. We hope that most parents will be able to drop off/pick up at BMS and then move along behind the building and get in the line for the BES parent drop off/pick up. For those families who only need to stop at one school, we think that as long as we are aware and careful, cars will be able to drive around those parents who are waiting and exit.

Finally, I would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season. Your children are excited for this special time of year. The most precious gift you can share is your love and time. I hope that you all have a safe, happy and peaceful holiday and new year. I am very proud of the Brooklyn School community and am humbled to serve you all as Superintendent.

Sincerely,



Patricia L. Buell

Please consider visiting the Brooklyn Public Schools website often! We are trying to keep you informed! I have enjoyed sharing information and posting many celebrations through the Superintendent's Blog, which can be found on the district website; [www.brooklynschools.org](http://www.brooklynschools.org) or...

**Did you know that Brooklyn Public Schools has an App?  
You can go to the App store for Apple or Android and  
download the app titled:**

**Brooklyn Schools**

