

Dear Weston Public Schools Community,

On February 23, 2021 at the School Committee meeting, I put forward a proposal that all secondary school students would be back for in person learning five days a week on Monday March 15, 2021. Although it was an ambitious timeline, I believed we could meet it despite the many complexities involved. We have made much progress in our move to reopen the Middle and High Schools, but we are facing some unexpected challenges. These include:

- Our need to hire more staff than anticipated to ensure student safety and provide necessary accommodations for teachers. Postings for job-openings are out and it will take some time to build an applicant pool, screen, interview, check references, and hire.
- Scheduling, staffing, and class size complications arising from a much greater than expected number of families requesting a move to in-person instruction from the Remote Learning Academy.
- The unexpected quarantining of High School leaders Paul Peri and Kelly Flynn. Both have continued to work remotely and many have stepped up to assist in their absence, but progress toward making a successful transition has slowed.
- Other issues we are facing include changes in transportation schedules, the movement of desks and other furniture between schools and classrooms to accommodate larger class sizes, the need for additional PPE, shipment delays, and the logistics behind launching the pooled testing program.

All of these challenges taken together contribute to our need to postpone our move to five-day-a-week in-school learning by one week, to **Monday March 22, 2021**. I recognize this is a disappointing development and apologize for the unavoidable delay.

We are committed to keeping the date of April 5, 2021 for extending the school day for elementary students, and we are looking forward to having all of our secondary students who are currently in the hybrid model in school together every day starting on March 22.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for your continued efforts to keep the WPS community safe.

Best,

Dr. Midge Connolly