

Statement on Brunswick School Board Calendar Discussion

Unfortunately at our recent board meeting, comments made by some board members over the school calendar offended members of the community. This is regrettable. As a board and a community, we strive to be inclusive and open to diverse opinions and ideas. We want schools that are welcoming and respectful of individuals and their personal beliefs. The Brunswick School Board affirms its continued commitment to these values.

Following the meeting, on Thursday morning, I asked the Superintendent to pull together a calendar that is inclusive of every major religion's holy days. That work will happen in the next few weeks. After a draft of this revised calendar is circulated to the board, if there are other important dates/holy days that the community feels are not included, we would ask members of the community to send those dates to Paul Perzanoski for inclusion in the calendar. This calendar will serve as a reminder to faculty and staff that these days are important to members of our community, and they should be cognizant of them while they schedule their school year activities.

The Brunswick School Board in no way thinks of Jewish community members (or any other religious or non-religious group) as outsiders. Any one of us, at any given moment, can be in-artful or inarticulate in the points we are trying to make. I hope going forward that we as board members will try harder to choose words that cannot be construed to ostracize certain community members. Similarly as a community, I hope that we can all treat each other with respect and give one another the benefit of the doubt, especially when hearing about statements second or third-hand; seeking to clarify and understand statements that might come across as offensive, before assuming the worst in people and ascribing them with bad intentions when they are looking for the right words and unfortunately, coming up short.

School Board Chairman
William Thompson