

April 9, 2019

To the Jackson/Mann K-8 Community:

As you may know, BuildBPS is an initiative of the City of Boston and the Boston Public Schools (BPS) that represents an unprecedented commitment to investing in the infrastructure of BPS through new construction, major renovations, and other facilities improvements. Through this multifaceted initiative, we aim to provide a 21st century learning environment for all of our students. BuildBPS also represents an opportunity to closely examine the facilities-related challenges facing each of our school communities, including the Jackson/Mann.

This past fall, BPS requested that the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department commission an external full-scale building assessment of the Jackson/Mann facility, which houses the Jackson/Mann K-8 School, the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Jackson/Mann Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) community center. We pursued this course of action both to assess and address what we believed to be deteriorating building conditions. The result of that assessment is an independent engineering report, which will be released tomorrow and which outlines some significant building challenges that could prevent the long-term operability of the site beyond the 2020 - 2021 school year.

**To be clear, the Jackson/Mann building is a safe and secure environment. Nothing in the facilities analysis indicates that there is imminent danger to students or staff. In fact, through this analysis, BPS has identified some specific infrastructure investments that we will make during the summer of 2019 and beyond to extend the usable life of the building.**

The Jackson/Mann building's systems – including but not limited to roofing, windows, and air handler units – will undergo significant repairs in the coming months. However, the condition of these and other building systems is such that they ultimately need to be replaced to continue to operate the facility. This level of work is so extensive and time-consuming that the safest course of action, long-term, is to vacate the building. At this time we anticipate that the schools and programs currently using the building may need to be relocated after the 2020 - 2021 school year. Thankfully, we have over two full years to engage in a community process to consider what options might be available to us regarding possible alternate locations for both school communities currently residing in the building, as well as the community center.

This week we will begin a community engagement effort with the Jackson/Mann and the Horace Mann school communities to address the building's structural problems, and we will also discuss this issue at the meeting of the Boston School Committee tomorrow night, Wednesday, April 10. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

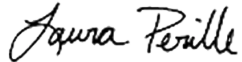


We will hold a voluntary staff meeting of both schools on Thursday, April 11, at 2:30 p.m. We will also hold community meetings for Jackson/Mann and Horace Mann families on the following dates:

- **Community meeting for Horace Mann:** Monday, April 22, 6:00 p.m. at the Horace Mann School
- **Community meeting for Jackson/Mann:** Thursday, April 25, 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson/Mann K-8

BPS is committed to working with the staff and community of the Jackson/Mann as we identify the best path forward so that all stakeholders remain informed of this process.

Sincerely,



Laura Perille  
Interim Superintendent

