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February 28, 2012

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians:

At last evening's School Committee meeting I provided the Committee with a report showing the attendance / absenteeism rate of the two school days held during the February vacation week. In our collective discussion the School Committee and I agreed that this has been a unique winter, with a near historical lack of snow, and that the likelihood of cancellation days due to inclement weather significantly decreases in March and April.

Based on our discussion, and my recommendation, the School Committee voted to restore the full April vacation bringing the last day of school (as of 2/28) to Friday, June 15, 2012. Although I believe that the November decision to conduct classes during two days of the February and April vacation weeks was the correct decision at the time, we have been reminded of New England's extraordinarily unpredictable weather.

I want to thank families and staff who have gone out of their way to make accommodations to support student attendance. I understand that this revision may impact plans that you may, or may not, have for the April vacation; but I hope you and your family will look upon this reversed decision favorably.

Sincerely,

Everett V. Olsen, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools