



Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>

Fwd: [External Email] Diwali and Eid School Holiday Letter to the BOE

1 message

Lynn Piascyk <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>
To: Marsha DeGennaro <mdegennaro@woodbridgeps.org>
Cc: Vonda Tencza <vtencza@woodbridgeps.org>

Tue, Dec 10, 2024 at 2:41 PM

Marsha -

Please include the attached email and letter under Public Comment in Boardbook for Monday's Board of Ed meeting.
Thank you, Lynn

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shruti Desai** <shruti.sdesai@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Dec 7, 2024 at 1:22 PM

Subject: [External Email] Diwali and Eid School Holiday Letter to the BOE

To: <lpiascyk@woodbridgeps.org>, <slawrence@woodbridgeps.org>, <lfrancese@woodbridgeps.org>, <sdelprete@woodbridgeps.org>, <jdahya@woodbridgeps.org>, <ewilliamson@woodbridgeps.org>, <bhopkins@woodbridgeps.org>, <jhughes@woodbridgeps.org>, <mstrambler@woodbridgeps.org>

Dear Members of the Woodbridge School District BOE:

I am sharing this letter with you on behalf of over 200 community members to express our strong support for recognizing Diwali and Eid as official school holidays. These festivals hold profound significance for many students and families within our community. As you know, Diwali is a major religious festival for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, and Eid marks the end of Ramadan for Muslims

We are sending this letter to all 4 BOWA BOEs to help achieve this for all students in the BOWA community.

Sincerely
Shruti Desai
(On behalf of our community)

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 **schoolholidayletterBOE.pdf**
41K

Dear Members of the BOWA Boards of Education,

We, the undersigned community members, write to express our strong support for the student-led proposal to recognize Diwali and Eid as official school holidays in our school district. These festivals hold profound significance for many families within our community: Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, while Eid marks the end of Ramadan for Muslims.

Currently, students observing these holidays face the difficult choice between attending school and participating in their cultural and religious traditions. By officially acknowledging Diwali and Eid as school holidays, the district can alleviate the pressure on students torn between academic responsibilities and observing sacred traditions with their families.

Notably, several Connecticut school districts have already established these holidays in their academic calendars. Diwali is now a school holiday in Avon, Newington, Rocky Hill, Stamford, Trumbull, South Windsor, and West Hartford. Eid is recognized in Bridgeport, Fairfield, Hamden, Newington, New Haven, Stamford, Trumbull, and Waterbury. We urge ABOE to use this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all students and promote greater understanding and respect for different cultures and religions within our school community.

We respectfully urge you, our Board of Education members, to thoughtfully consider adjustments to the school calendar that would allow for this change, recognizing the importance these holidays hold for many in our community. We ask you to move forward with these adjustments, confident that the positive impact on our students and community will far outweigh the expected logistic challenges.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your continued commitment to ensuring that all students in the community feel respected and supported in their educational journey.

Rizwana Hussain	Bethany
Adeel Tahir	Bethany
Emily Meredith-Stein	Bethany
Daniel Meredith-Stein	Bethany
Lauren Babcock-Dunning	Bethany
Nita Balsara	Bethany
Ketan Balsara	Bethany

Namita Wijesekera	Bethany
Shirvi Wijesekera	Bethany
Jeanette Savo	Bethany
Jenny Turner	Bethany
April Stirling	Bethany
Ann Roselle	Bethany
Keith Roselle	Bethany
Jason Rushlow	Bethany
Amy Rushlow	Bethany
Rebecca Hildrew	Bethany
Jennifer Galik	Bethany
Naomi Rosenstein	Bethany
Jeni Bonaldo	Bethany
Shannon Lane	Bethany
Sara Hannan	Bethany
Erin Gorski	Bethany
Kathryn Sylvester	Bethany
Marina Yazdi	Bethany
Sara Chute Hsiang	Bethany
Caitlin nugent	Bethany
Karl Larson	Bethany
Emily Meredith-Stein	Bethany
Daniel Meredith-Stein	Bethany
Autumn Lopes-Cloud	Bethany
Justin Lopes-Cloud	Bethany
Chris Pittenger	Bethany
Johanna Fernandez	Bethany
Douglas Hildrew	Bethany.
Vijay Menta	Orange
Malini Menta	Orange
Alekya Menta	Orange
Ameya Menta	Orange
Uma Gopalakrishnan	Orange
Ramasamy Venkatasamy	Orange
Sangeeta Dadlani	Orange
S. Adam Spiewak	Orange
Carrie McDaniel	Orange
Madhu Gowda	Orange
Veena Gowda	Orange
Jethin Gowda	Orange

Shiva Gowda	Orange
Amber Canavan	Orange
Meghna Gangwani	Orange
Sunil Gangwani	Orange
Devangi Dharani	Orange
Snehal Dharani	Orange
Kajal Raj	Orange
Sunaina Vijay	Orange
Vijay Kumar	Orange
Sowmya Sidhartha	Orange
Sidhartha Sridharan	Orange
Srinath Kadimi	Orange
Madhavi Kadimi	Orange
Amber Wardwell	Orange
Mansi patel	Orange
Vihangkumar Patel	Orange
Maniben Patel	Orange
Ayesha Chaudhry	Orange
Mumtaz Chaudhry	Orange
Arun Pillai	Orange
Anusha Pillai	Orange
Erin Wilson	Orange
Melissa Marguy	Orange
Sapna Tandon	Orange
Adam Spiewak	Orange
Debra Kidder	Orange
Judy Primavera	Orange
Deanna Pucillo	Orange
Richard Novack	Orange
Barbara Dooley	Orange
Jody Dietch	Orange
Lisa Opert	Orange
Exantson Louis	Orange
Charlene Louis	Orange
Trina Rana	Orange
Bhupendra Rana	Orange
Steph Gallo	Orange
Katy Marchitto	Orange
Megan Heinisch	Orange
Laura Cruz	Orange

Casey Castillo	Orange
Jillian Soto-Marino	Orange
Vanessa Briodagh	Orange
Melissa Johnston	Orange
Elizabeth Ewen	Orange
Victoria Woodard	Orange
Sylvester Salcedo	Orange
Tazeen Amir	Orange
Anjali Mehta	Orange
Gautam Phull	Orange
Sreelatha vankayala	Orange
Ravi Vankayala	Orange
Alekya Vankayla	Orange
Abhilaash Vankayala	Orange
Prashanthi Teepireddy	Orange
Ramasamy	Orange
Usha Garg	Orange
Sunita chhabra	Orange
Venu Anumolu	Orange
Rob Hames	Orange.
Padmaja Vilekar	Woodbridge
Saurabh Vilekar	Woodbridge
Shruti Desai	Woodbridge
Sameet Mehta	Woodbridge
Shamlee Kulkarni	Woodbridge
Atul Kulkarni	Woodbridge
Manjula Santhanakrishnan	Woodbridge
Viswanathan Muthusamy	Woodbridge
Ajay Soni	Woodbridge
Suman Soni	Woodbridge
Shobha Jagadeesh	Woodbridge
Ramnath Hebbar	Woodbridge
Anoka Faruqee	Woodbridge
David Driscoll	Woodbridge
Rizwan Parvez	Woodbridge
Tahera Parvez	Woodbridge
Shiny Nair	Woodbridge
Sekhar Boddupalli	Woodbridge
Vidhya Rao	Woodbridge
Balaji Rao	Woodbridge

Arvind Gupta	Woodbridge
Suman Gupta	Woodbridge
Amie Hussain	Woodbridge
Afshan Hussain	Woodbridge
Ruche Srivastava	Woodbridge
Slavek Mejnartowicz	Woodbridge
Sumithra Sudhir	Woodbridge
Priya Mukherjee	Woodbridge
John Swartz	Woodbridge
Meetu Kaushik	Woodbridge
Neeraj Tiwari	Woodbridge
Heidi Binford	Woodbridge
Robert Binford	Woodbridge
Monika Jadi	Woodbridge
Anirvan Nandy	Woodbridge
Vidhya Rao	Woodbridge
Balaji Rao	Woodbridge
Ambreen Ashiq	Woodbridge
Atul Bahel	Woodbridge
Srikant Rangaraju	Woodbridge
Nitya Bakshi	Woodbridge
Neha Sudhir	Woodbridge
Richa Sharma	Woodbridge
Kamil Faridi	Woodbridge
Kristine Anthis	Woodbridge
Jessica Gianfredi	Woodbridge
Kathleen Mills	Woodbridge
Ambreen Ashiq	Woodbridge
Rebecca Kalikawe	Woodbridge
Hillary Drumm	Woodbridge
Kristi Bellara	Woodbridge
Amar Bellara	Woodbridge
Kate Griffiths	Woodbridge
Rachel Forbes	Woodbridge
Chaim Azoff-Slifstein	Woodbridge
Emily Costa	Woodbridge
Jesse Costa	Woodbridge
Katelyn Calabrese	Woodbridge
Asmaa Nofal	Woodbridge
Jean Molot	Woodbridge

Seth Chicos	Woodbridge
Cate Hatridge	Woodbridge
Marwan Osman	Woodbridge
Halima El Cheikh	Woodbridge
Diala Osman	Woodbridge
Bassam Osman	Woodbridge
Adam Osman	Woodbridge
Lanna Moore	Woodbridge
Pilar Abuin	Woodbridge
Angel Abuin	Woodbridge
Amany Mroueh	Woodbridge
Maria Federico Madonick	Woodbridge
Michael G Madonick	Woodbridge
Prasanna Ananth	Woodbridge
Mandar Muzumdar	Woodbridge
Tara Buckman	Woodbridge
Meltem Yildirim	Woodbridge
Ilker Yildirim	Woodbridge
Edina Jusic	Woodbridge
Mirnes Jusic	Woodbridge
Lauren White	Woodbridge
Sofia I. Morales	Woodbridge
David Franklin	Woodbridge
Mohini Ranganathan	Woodbridge
Sudhir Perincheri	Woodbridge
Cory Sells	Woodbridge
David Sells	Woodbridge
Heidi Binford	Woodbridge
Robert Binford	Woodbridge
Jonathan A. Dranoff	Woodbridge
Nicole Graas	Woodbridge
Larissa Hall	Woodbridge
Lauren Cohen	Woodbridge
Patricia Alonso	Woodbridge
Aubrey Meyenburg	Woodbridge
Rebecca Harlow	Woodbridge
Joy Drakonakis	Woodbridge
Rachel Forbes	Woodbridge
Kavita Joshi - Mahajan	Woodbridge
Amit Mahajan	Woodbridge

Ke Xu
Suman Soni
Maria Madonick

Woodbridge
Woodbridge
Woodbridge