



## Brookline Educators Union

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*Affiliated with the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Education Association*

April 13, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Dr. Sharon Abramowitz

Member of the Brookline School Committee

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for the invitation to join the COVID Task Force. We think it is important that the Central Administration and School Committee continue to set educational goals for the district together and provide guidance and oversight for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency.

Given the nature of the crisis and timing of this task force, and recognizing the distinct institutional role of the union, we decline to have BEU members serve as members of the task force. We think it is appropriate for the School Committee to determine policies and goals, and for the Central Administration to work with the BEU and our members to implement these within the framework of our standing collective bargaining agreements.

This decision should not be interpreted as a lack of commitment on the part of the BEU or our members to work collaboratively during this exceptionally complex and challenging period. Already, we are working closely in grade level and departmental teams, and with both building based and central administrators to develop and improve individual and district-wide remote learning practices. This work is substantial and ongoing. In addition, several BEU subcommittees are meeting regularly to discuss issues that are important in the current situation.

As the task force develops its schedule and plans and has inquiries or proposals, the BEU will be prepared to respond in our capacity as the exclusive representative of the educators in our bargaining units by offering substantive feedback. We already have effective means to communicate with our members. We believe that continuing to communicate with our membership in the ways we see fit generates the most comprehensive picture of teacher experience possible. In the meantime, BEU members will also continue to engage with building principals, curriculum coordinators, other administrators and our other colleagues throughout the district, as we work collectively to address the diverse educational and social needs of our students and educators during this unprecedented epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Wender-Shubow'.

Jessica Wender-Shubow  
BEU President

Cc:

Ben Lummis, Interim Superintendent  
BEU Executive Board