

Dear Members of the Board of Education and Superintendent,

We are writing to express our frustration and disappointment regarding the scheduling of the Beecher Road 6th-grade Promotion Ceremony.

On April 10, the AMSB ceremony time of 8:45 AM was shared in an email newsletter. That same day, Principal Sherman informed families that June 17 was the tentative date for the 6th-grade promotion ceremony and that the administration was “doing our very best to coordinate times” with the middle school. Families reasonably expected that this coordination would allow full participation in both ceremonies.

Then, on April 24, families were notified that the Beecher Ceremony would be held at 11:00 AM on the same day as the AMSB’s Ceremony. This current schedule compresses the events into a narrow window that does not meaningfully resolve the conflict and may leave both celebrations rushed or shortened.

As scheduled, the overlap is impractical. The middle school ceremony typically lasts about 90 minutes, and families also need time afterward for student pickup, photos, and meaningful interactions with teachers and peers. When parking, travel, and arrival logistics are added, there is little to no margin for delays. As a result, families may be forced to rush through, or miss altogether, important parts of one of these milestones.

More importantly, this places students in an unfair position. Sixth graders may have to choose between fully participating in their own promotion ceremony and supporting a sibling, while eighth graders may miss out on fully celebrating with their classmates. These are important milestones that students anticipate for years and deserve to experience fully.

This issue also affects the broader school community. These ceremonies are meant to be meaningful and unhurried. Compressing them into such a tight timeframe diminishes the experience for students, families, and educators alike. Families raised these concerns when the 11:00 AM option was first discussed, including conflicts with established traditions and the practical difficulty of moving between events. At the time, we were assured that efforts would be made to address these concerns. It is difficult to reconcile the final schedule with those assurances.

Because this conflict was identified early and acknowledged, we believe it is reasonable to expect a solution that does not place families in this position. We respectfully request that the district reconsider the current schedule and explore alternatives, such as:

- Moving the ceremony to later in the day
- Holding it on a different day
- Identifying another option that allows families to attend both ceremonies fully

This is not simply a matter of preference. It is about ensuring that students and families can be fully present for these meaningful milestones without unnecessary conflict or compromise.

We appreciate the complexity of scheduling decisions and respectfully request a prompt response, given the proximity of these events.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick and Alison Valsamis
Luciana McClure Lewis
Roberto and Daniela Aponte
Robert and Lauren Betlinski
Marie DePhillips and Mike Charette
Arthur and Stacy Awe
Grace and James Choi
Jennifer Jaworski
Briana Luciani May
Robert McClure and Seona Skwara
Garrett and Deanne Manthey
Terry and Erez Landau
Shruti Desai
Whitney Randall
Mary and John Daoutis
Alexandra Cohen
Ruth and Styve Pamphile
Jennifer Wellman & Eric Erkenbrack
Angela Incassati and Don Nguyen
Jeremy and Tara Newberry