

# District Calendar Committee

Board Update  
May 24, 2017

THANK YOU Committee!

# District Calendar Committee Background

On March 16, 2016, as a part of the english language arts curriculum renewal and design process, the School Board approved a District Calendar committee recommendation. It stated, “Establish a District Calendar Study Team - Consistent time for teacher collaboration and planning are imperative for success in ALL areas and levels. The next District Calendar should reflect this need in its priority.”

Before ACT 10, the District Calendar fell within the responsibility of the negotiation teams. In 2013, the District completed a more inclusive calendar process in order to create additional days during the school term for locally planned and hosted professional development and learning. With all of the rapid change in education at this time, it is imperative that we leverage all contact time with our students and staff.

# Charge to the District Committee:

- We are committed to the approved Focus Plan;
- Common and regularly structured collaboration, meeting, and planning time is essential for successful implementation of the Focus Plan goals;
- Gaining input from our teachers, recreation department, activities and athletics, 4K-12 parents, and community is important;
- Considering the impact on students, parents, community and staff is paramount;
- Opportunities for professional development in alignment with system priorities is essential;
- We are committed to continuous improvement AND opportunities for the Seven Thriving Dispositions

# Work of the District Committee:

- Review previously completed work on the District Calendar.
- Provide recommendations for calendar enhancements for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Continue work on potential recommendations for future calendars that more closely align to the proposed charge of the study committee.
- Ensure we meet all DPI requirements related to the calendar.
- Build broader community and staff understanding of the complexity of needs within a K-12 calendar.
- Review research and potential survey data in regards to parent-teacher conferences and other teacher communication.
- Look to align our K-12 reporting system (trimester/semester).

# Core Priorities (not in particular order):

- Professional learning blocks of significant length
- Collaboration and professional learning time embedded in the calendar on a monthly basis
- Stay within current teacher work days (191 with three holidays) noted in the Instructional Employee Handbook
- Stay within the current teacher workday practice
- Used the survey data (parent and staff feedback) to drive any refinements/changes
- Additional religious holiday refinements
- Multiple years that include dates of summer school

# Survey Results Common Themes:

- Parents and Staff surveys report that they would NOT support starting much earlier than September 1st (a few days would be OK) due to the heat in the school buildings
- Finish by the second week in June
- Keep Parent-Teacher conferences at 9 weeks in the semester
- Fall is the important conference- allocate less time in Spring as it is not needed
- Days off for professional learning connected to weekends and break
- DO NOT have Late Starts and would prefer Early Releases IF necessary (our parents and staff like full days of instruction)
- Amount of student days did not matter to our parents and staff as much prioritizing instructional minutes

# Proposed Calendar “Highlights”

- **Monthly block of collaboration and professional learning time established**
- Moves K-12 system on semesters
- Have 177 student days: but there is an INCREASE in instructional minutes and 3-4 inclement weather days built in! (Less early release needed for clerical and conference comp time)
- Summer School dates established and added
- Significantly reduces early release times
- Does NOT change the HS exam schedule or ACT testing schedule (unless needed beyond the built in inclement weather days)



# Work left to do!

- High School Start Time- Although the parent survey has a high confidence level and the potential change to a later start time at HS was well received and is highly supported in research; we would like to take the 2017 fall and winter to further investigate and survey additional stakeholders (students for example)
- Communicate the “change” of spring parent teacher conference schedule and time
- Review the religious holiday policy and practice for potential changes OR practice clarification for consistency
- In elementary, the amount of scheduled days off on Fridays and Mondays cause those “encore” areas to have less instruction- Research elementary only “switch” days (ex. 38 Tuesdays and 30 Fridays).
- Does not solve weekly collaboration time at the High School

# Board Approved Policy Revisions by

**2018/19:**

- Grading and Reporting Policy- Move trimesters in elementary to semesters for formal Report Cards