

2013-2014 CALENDAR COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

November 8, 2012

Present: Stacy Asante, Selynn Barbour, Pam Barrett, John Beckett, Shawn Dandoy, Cathy Duggan, Terry Jacob, Margaret Jones, Sean Kirksey, Jori LeMay, Shawn Maschino, Dr. Gail White, Christy Page, Marcie Rollings, Sarah Schwantes, Nora Shields, Todd Shockley, Renee Slack, Brett Thompson, Amy Wackerman, Stefanie Wirths, and Dr. Tim Hadfield

Dr. Hadfield welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made. The purpose of the committee was reviewed, which is to create calendar recommendations for the School Board to consider.

District policy and statutory requirements of a school calendar were reviewed. Other documents reviewed included the District's current 2012-2013 calendar, a basic "start" for a 2013-2014 District calendar, and 2012-2013 district calendars for Eldon, School of the Osage, West Plains, Morgan County R-II, Waynesville, Lebanon, and Jefferson City.

Dr. Hadfield re-read the portion of the District's Academic Calendar policy which states, "The Board recognizes the relationship between attendance and student achievement and directs the superintendent to develop an academic calendar designed to improve student achievement..."

Student attendance hours drive state funding based on average daily attendance. Our District is paid based on the first preceding year's ADA. If we miss a few hours due to illness or weather, it is not a significant amount of money lost.

Individually each one present listed what they would like to be included in the school calendar; i.e. start after Labor Day, end before Memorial Day, have a long Christmas break, etc. Next, partner responses were composed. Then as a group each table determined what points they would like to see on the calendar.

As a whole, the committee looked over and discussed the ideas presented from each group. Each individual was given three dots to "spend" on their top three choices of listed ideas they would like to be considered in the formation of next year's calendar.

Below is the list of ideas, the number of dots awarded, and rank:

IDEAS	Number of Dots	Rank
<i>Build P/D collaboration days that would allow for 4½- or 4-day work week with 3 - 3½ day collaboration time on Fridays.</i>		
<i>Start one week later and end later. (MAP testing date moved back.)</i>	6	4
<i>Have at least one day off a month.</i>	3	
<i>No spring conferences. Keep evening conference and Friday off OR night and half day then off.</i>		
<i>Open house on different night for outlying buildings.</i>		
<i>Maintain four-day work schedule at beginning of year (no PD on 4th day).</i>	6	4
<i>Keep PD day first quarter.</i>		
<i>Parent/Teacher conferences broken up between two weeks.</i>	1	
<i>Continue ending semester before Christmas.</i>		
<i>Teacher workday immediately following end of quarter.</i>	1	

Maintain professional collaboration (flexible on scheduling).		
Keep make-up days at the end of the year.	1	
Weekly collaboration (Possibly add one hour to contract.)	14	1
Day after Halloween would be a great PD day.		
Protect Presidents' Day	1	
Protect Easter (at least three maybe four days) for time with family or vacation.	4	
Half days before Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter breaks.	7	3
Good reviews for this year's Christmas break (two weeks!).		
Week later start to year (tourism).		
Can graduation be set on the calendar?		
Possible Spring Break		
Not coming back to work on a Friday		
Keep two-week Christmas Break ☺	9	2
Protect Presidents' Day		
Just as much instructional time.	4	
Just as much PD/work time/collaboration time.		
As little as possible change to daily routine.	1	
Attempt to reduce transportation expense.		
Respect community and parent needs:		
Honor Veteran's Day (A no-student day.)		
Full Friday collaboration day per month.	5	5
Keep Thanksgiving and Christmas same.		
P/T in evenings.		
Honor Spring Break		

At the next meeting the committee will work up several calendar options. The committee has broad parameters and statutory requirements. Collaboration is important, keeping a long Christmas vacation, keeping half days prior to breaks, keeping the four work days prior to the start of school and protecting one of those days for teachers to be in their classrooms, and start/end a week later were some of the top ideas.

Other topics discussed included:

- The school culture is changing because teachers are being asked to teach better without time to plan.
- Parents need to be continually educated on the necessity of collaboration.
- Consider daycare for young students as a result of early release days.
- Teachers could be paid to come in an hour earlier. We would need to work with our teachers and staff who have young children themselves.
- Frequent collaboration time is especially essential at the High School. If there is too long between collaboration times it can be pointless because teachers have tested, re-tested, and moved on.
- Are late starts successful?
- Four-day student week.
- Year-round school.
- Want to meet the needs of our community as well as serving our students to the best of our ability.
- Need to continue to brainstorm how to get the teachers out of the classroom but keep the students in. What are options to keep students here but have collaboration time?
- More contact time with students should have been listed as an idea.

Tim will schedule the next meeting and notify all members.