



Calendar Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 24, 2017; 4:00 p.m.
Central Administration Office

Present: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Melanie Kathrein, Lyle Smith, Brenda Loney, Leann Mehrer, Melinda Fridrich, Diana Stroud, Jamie Prellwitz, Alicia Hutzenbiler, Kelly Jahn, Tammy Meschke, Madelyn Ohene-Ntow, and Kalindi Brandvik. Others present: Twila Petersen.

Superintendent Sullivan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Early Release Dates - Copies of the four draft 2017-2018 school calendars were distributed to the committee members. Dr. Sullivan noted that one responsibility put on this committee by the school board was to look at the early release dates. He listed the dates chosen by the Professional Development Leadership Team and also reviewed and agreed by the Cabinet members. Dr. Sullivan asked the committee members if they wished to make any modifications. Ms. Mehrer inquired if a decision had been made regarding what calendar would be used for the 2017-2018 school year for the middle school and high school. Dr. Sullivan noted that the school board had not rendered its decision on what calendar(s) would be chosen for the next school year. He noted the early release dates and the professional development dates were identical on all four drafts. Mrs. Loney added the only difference was the teacher work day on the four drafts. He again asked if there were any changes recommended. Mrs. Fridrich noted that only two versions were provided at the recent DEA meeting and she inquired why only two. All four have been shared at meetings with the Calendar Committee and the school board. Dr. Sullivan asked if there were any concerns with the proposed early release dates. Mrs. Stroud said she had no concerns and noted that she serves on the Professional Development Leadership Team. Consensus was the early release dates of September 27, December 6, January 31, and March 14 were acceptable and Dr. Sullivan explained those were the dates he would recommend to the school board.

Mrs. Kathrein noted the Professional Development Leadership Team recommended moving the October 2 professional development day to October 9. Cabinet members did not have any concerns with the change in the PD day. There was a discussion if this would conflict with the window of testing. Mrs. Kathrein responded that typically the window of testing closes the end of September. Dr. Sullivan inquired if there were any questions regarding the change in the placement of the PD day in October. There were none noted.

Third Storm/Snow Day – Superintendent Sullivan opened the floor for discussion regarding placing a third storm/snow day in the 2017-2018 calendar that had been requested by the school board. Ms. Loney suggested December 22 as the third storm day. Mrs. Stroud inquired if there would be a storm day in the first quarter could it be made up in the first quarter. Mr. Smith said it would be picked up in the second quarter. Ms. Loney felt if a snow day was missed in the first quarter the semester break could be moved back a day. Dr. Sullivan asked if there were any concerns with December 22. Mr. Smith noted there were not too many options. Dr. Sullivan

explained the possible options are December 22 and February 19. Ms. Loney said the downside to having a storm day on February 19 is that it does not leave any room for a break between January until March. Mrs. Kathrein explained that it may be difficult for elementary students to go a full week right before Christmas if the December 22 storm day is utilized. Ms. Loney added it is also hard for the high school students. Mrs. Kathrein inquired if having the storm day on December 22 was making use of good quality time. She appreciated the comment but wondered if it would impact any other schools (other than DHS) if the end of the quarter would be a day later. There was discussion regarding students on vacation for Christmas. Mrs. Stroud referenced previous discussions where there was an attempt to have a day off in each month to provide a break not only for staff but also the students. It gives the teachers a chance, at all levels, to recharge. She noted if the storm day was scheduled in February, the teachers would be at professional development January 15, the students would not have school. There would be ½ day off again for the students on January 31 but the teachers would still put in a full day. The teachers would be going strong from January 2 into March. Mrs. Meschke added there would also be parent/teacher conferences during that timeframe. Dr. Sullivan again inquired if there were any opinions regarding December 22 not being an appropriate storm date. There were no concerns noted. Dr. Sullivan said he would recommend to the Board December 22 as another storm date for the 2017-2018 school calendar.

Ms. Loney inquired if there would be four draft calendars submitted to the board for review. Superintendent Sullivan responded that there were four drafts that had been previously presented to the board and that had received input. Input had been posted on the board meeting background agenda. There was discussion regarding the calendars presented to Berg Elementary staff. Dr. Sullivan responded that there should have been a group DMS vote from both Hagen and Berg on the calendar. Mrs. Stroud said that it is her impression the consensus of the Berg teachers was to mirror Hagen's choice of option A2 for the 2017-2018 calendar.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. Dr. Sullivan thanked the committee for their input.