



Calendar Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 6, 2018; 4:00 p.m.
Central Administration Office

Members present: Dr. Shon Hocker, Mr. Keith Harris, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mr. Lyle Smith, Ms. Leann Mehrer, Mrs. Tammy Meschke, Mrs. Diana Stroud, Mrs. Kristi Meidinger, Ms. Brenda Loney, Mrs. Shawna Knipp, Mrs. Yvette Schubert, Mrs. Megan Morey, and Mrs. Haley Marsh.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Hocker at 4:00 p.m.

All committee members were given a copy of draft A of the proposed 2019-2020 school calendar. Superintendent Hocker reported the draft calendar reflected rolling over information from last year. The only exception was the 2018-2019 calendar had three storm days and the draft 2019-2020 calendar has two storm days. It has been standard practice for the early release days to be discussed by the Professional Development Leadership Team and input from the administrators prior to presenting the calendar to the school board.

Dr. Hocker explained the legislature has had discussions regarding changing the requirements for students in the classroom from “required days” to “required hours”. If this should change, it would provide more flexibility. More information could be available when the legislative session ends next spring.

Superintendent Hocker added there has been a lot of work done over the years to build the calendar and he wished to be sensitive to those conversations. He noted he would be sharing the information with the principals at Monday’s Cabinet meeting and also with the Parent Advisory Committee on Tuesday. Depending how things go from there, the calendar may be presented to the school board at its January meeting for Board consideration. Dr. Hocker opened the floor to the teachers for their input.

Mrs. Meidinger inquired regarding February’s Presidents’ Day. Comments from the committee were this could potentially be utilized as a storm day, if necessary. Alternatively, December 20 could be set as a storm day and Presidents’ Day could become a student contact day. Ms. Loney commented that if Presidents’ Day did become a makeup storm day, there would be no break for the teachers from the first part of January until March 6.

Ms. Loney noted that for many years the storm days were not utilized. The past school board and administration felt that two storm days wasn’t enough. Mrs. Meschke added two years ago, there was a storm in November when the schools were closed for two days and there was a panic because both designated storm days had already been utilized before December.

Dr. Hocker said he had reviewed the minutes from a previous Calendar Committee meeting and it appeared at the secondary level, the thought of the storm day in December was to provide a storm day in the first semester if a storm day was used during that semester. Ms. Loney responded she has visited with high school teachers and some suggest extending the quarter one more day if a storm day would fall into that particular quarter. Mrs. Kathrein explained that would be a building-level decision as she did not think it would affect any other schools in the District. She added there would need to be adjustments in PowerSchool if the semester date were to change.

Mr. Smith inquired if the dates of October 17 and 18th were designated as teachers' convention or administrators' convention. Dr. Hocker responded he had received a letter from State Superintendent Baesler that those dates were mandated to be non-student contact days as they are set aside for administrative training days. There was a discussion regarding the annual teachers' convention. Mrs. Knipp and Mrs. Stroud said there was a convention set aside for educators a week before the administrators' convention.

Ms. Mehrer said she had a request for two full weeks off from school at Christmas. Dr. Hocker responded that he is sensitive to the history of this group, and its request has been to have school done before Memorial Day. Working backwards before Memorial Day, if there was no school for two weeks at Christmas, those dates would need to be added back in. He left it up to the Calendar Committee to make that decision. There was discussion adding some student contact days in August. Adding days to August was not a good option for the high school students, as per Ms. Loney. Ms. Mehrer and Mrs. Meidinger did not wish to add in days over Easter break. Mrs. Meidinger questioned why there was no school on one day in March for WDA basketball tournaments. She noted there are other sports in the District but the students do not get a day off from school for those tournaments. Mrs. Kathrein responded the history of the students and the community is they support and attend the basketball games and also the basketball tournaments. It had been proposed to the school board years ago to have school in session the Friday of the basketball tournaments. The Board denied the proposed calendar that year stating they knew there would be a large amount of student absences if school was in session.

Ms. Loney inquired if there were only two storm days in the schedule and if that schedule is proposed to the Board, could the Board send it back requiring a third storm day. Dr. Hocker responded if the Board requests three storm days, then it would come back to this committee for input.

Mrs. Meidinger asked for Thanksgiving Day to be corrected on the draft calendar.

Dr. Hocker summarized the draft that was distributed stating it was essentially carrying over days from last year. He appreciated the comments that were provided at today's meeting. Superintendent Hocker explained that he would be presenting the calendar to the Cabinet members on Monday for their input and the Parent Advisory Committee on Tuesday for their input.

There was a discussion regarding letting the buses run early due to inclement weather. Challenges with bused students going home to empty houses was noted as a concern. There are many more students riding the bus now than when the District only provided busing for rural students. Releasing busing students early has a bigger impact.

Ms. Loney said she has had requests regarding early release dates that she would like to share since this committee does not set the early release days. She knows that Cabinet provides input on the early release dates. The requests from the high school are not to have early release dates during parent/teacher conference days, not during ASVAB testing, not during picture days, and not in December.

Superintendent Hocker requested permission to present the draft calendar to the Board after he has received the input from the other committees. Consensus was yes, to present it to the Board at its January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.