

CALENDAR MEETING

7.23.2019

Big Picture Considerations

- The Legislature has provided Districts with “cover” to make substantial changes in their calendar
- For Districts that implement a calendar of 1104 hours there will be no need to make up any time missed due to inclement weather. Every district will need to implement 1080 to meet requirements (1044 regular plus 36 inclement weather hours).
- Collective Bargaining Agreements will need to be considered, possibly modified.
- Creativity of time surrounding virtual days to pick up additional hours has yet to be fully explored.
- There is strength in the numbers that every district calendar included in our Comp Data system will need to be modified based on new rule, so every community will experience some change.
- Will be a topic of discussion at Superintendent Roundtable, possibly in September.
- The level of difficulty districts are having grappling with a calendar and their community’s interests may not have been fully understood by elected officials when passing this legislation

Small Group Discussion Notes:

Some were resigned that last day of school would occur after Memorial Day. Finals will take place after winter break.

- A different approach to this scenario: Shorten break around Christmas. Take finals after Christmas. And then implement a winter break after finals.

Some wanted to creatively explore how the semester could still end before winter break:

- Need to explore how many minutes can we add to lengthen a day and gain some traction on the back end date. Thought was floated to make days longer in the fall and not the spring since there were more days to play with in the spring.
- Follow the virtual approach used for inclement weather days for PD days. Use virtual to capture student contact hours on PD days.
- When a week is already scheduled to be a 4-day school week, try to capture some extra minutes on each of those 4 days.
- Semesters are not an equal amount of days. First semester has less days than the second semester.

General thoughts around the calendar:

- Strong sentiment that the first day of school will be on the first Monday that districts are allowed to start. There may be a chance to push that start date to Tuesday. But many felt that having a soft start of Wednesday or Thursday is a luxury that districts cannot afford with the later start date.
- Establish a mindset that shifts teacher contracts to hours not days.
- Desire to standardize spring and winter break across the region. School districts share staff/students. Standardizing breaks within the region will help with coordination.
- Fall break can help with student discipline and staff attendance. Discipline often spikes in October. Teachers need a mental break. Fall break provides that relief for both students and teachers.

Thoughts on how to handle parent teacher conferences:

- Move to 3 evenings of parent teacher conferences as opposed to the PD morning/Afternoon-Evening parent teacher conferences/next day off model.
- Possibly have parent teacher conferences virtually.
- Many have abandoned a spring parent/teacher conferences except for elementary schools.

Specific school district feedback/ideas:

- Parkway has spent a lot of time working on calendars that focus more on hours than the number of days.
- Pattonville starts out with the goal of implementing a fall break but usually abandons it to achieve a desired ending data. However, district data shows that student discipline spikes in October demonstrating the need for a fall break.
- Lindbergh is establishing a teleworking policy.

Regional PD days – lots of interest in a regional PD day:

- Would like to see a collaborative element to it. Subject teachers from around the region meet together – either by subject and/or grade level.
- National speaker around a common theme topic. Possibly Restorative Practices, Trauma Informed, Social and Emotional
- National speaker around different subject areas and those teachers meet to hear that speaker. Need to ensure there is follow-up to the PD.
- Low interest in one and done PD. Many wanted to ensure it's meaningful and collaborative.
- Possible regional PD day: election day 2020

Two follow-up requests:

- Ideas around on how to work a teacher contract around hours and not days
- Teleworking policy from Lindbergh