

The Board of Trustees of Denton Independent School District, State of Texas, met in a Special meeting at the Denton ISD Central Services building, 1307 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas, on Friday, June 10, 2020 at 11:30 AM.

Pursuant to the Governor Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, this meeting will be conducted via videoconference, which will be audible to the Board and public and allow for two-way communication. The Board President, presiding officer of trustees will not be physically present at one location, but a quorum will be required for the meeting on the videoconference or phone. The public may access this meeting or obtain an electronic copy of the agenda packet at <https://www.dentonisd.org/trustees>.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burns who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Alexander, Burns, Chadwick, Price, Sanchez, Smith, and Stafford

Board Members Absent:

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Wilson, Stevenson and Zwahr

Discussion of 2020-2021 School Year Calendar The purpose of this item is to present a revised 2020-21 calendar. Susannah O'Bara presented information for a delayed start date which allows for solutions that provide continuous instruction during the 2020 - 2021 school year, while enabling the district to comply with current health guidance. By moving the school start date to August 27 this allows for maximum professional development and preparation for all staff members. In addition to instructional preparation it allows for receipt of PPE and allows for building preparation as needed for additional safety precautions. The instructional day will increase by 5 minutes, with a reduction of two instructional days, still providing for the required 75,600 instructional minutes.

Open Forum There were 29 Open Forum comments submitted by community members. Nine of the 29 were regarding today's subject on 2020-2021 school calendar. These comments were provided virtually, and all Trustees were given copies of the submitted comments.

Amber Briggles - I am in favor of delaying the start of the school year to August 26th, or even later. We need time to get our numbers under control, and I don't see that happening within the next month. I have registered both of my children for school, but we are going to start online only. My fervent hope and wish & prayer is that these numbers can decline to the point where we feel safe sending our children to school. We can't wait to get them back in the classroom, but we know that now is not the time. We hope that by assisting our children through remote learning, we

ease the strain on our teachers and crowded classrooms. But we do very much hope to get them back to school as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, please protect Denton families and your valuable teachers and staff by delaying the start of the school year by at least two weeks, if not more. I would be more than happy to start even in late September or October and go into the summer to complete the school year if that's what it takes to keep everyone healthy and safe. There are no easy decisions with this, and I want to thank you for the thought and consideration you have put into this already.

Kelly Briggs- I am for any measures that will help prepare a safe space for our teachers, staff, and students. Whatever amount of delay is required, I am for. We need to open and begin the school year when those preparing know we are ready and not open based on a date set on a calendar that was set prior to this pandemic.

Amelia Emerhirhi- Can consideration be given to changing tuition for Pre-K if we move the start of school to August 26th? This means parents paying tuition will be charged \$650 for 4 days of instruction/care for August. As a full-time school employee, I will have to pay for other daycare in the meantime. This would cause financial stress and may cause us to un-enroll from the tuition-based Pre-K program. Thank you for your consideration

Teri Johnson- My husband and I believe that it is in the best interest of the majority of students that they return to in classroom learning. During the last 3 months of the previous school year, not one teacher called my 8th grade student to help him with content understanding or even check on him and he is an inclusion student with special education support. We asked for help and never received a reply. I appreciate the difficult decision that you are called to make as I am in healthcare and recognize the significant risk. Thank you for your work and consideration.

Laëtitia Knight- I am in favor of moving the school start date back to allow teachers more time to prepare for the upcoming year.

Kelli Wilson- School delayed to start August 26th

Lori Talley- Airing on the side of caution is never a bad idea. Moving the calendar back a few weeks will give everyone more time to see if our area can get the current spike under control.

Courtney Whistler- I am all for school starting at least 2 weeks later, but my vote would also be to start after Labor Day. That gives us the rest of July and all of August to see what changes with the virus. Hopefully, there will be more herd immunity by that time and cases will be back on the decrease instead of on the rise. It will also give the teachers and parents almost another full week to prepare and make the decision that is best for their family. My hope is for the school year to be as normal for our children and teachers as possible, and by allowing more time, that seems like it could be more feasible. Thank you.

Wade Whistler - My vote would be for school to start at least 2 weeks late and preferably after a Labor Day. Thank you.

Listed below are the remaining names of community members providing comments to the Board of Trustees.

Karen Anderson-Lain; Meredith Buie; Jennifer Collins; Jackson Dean; Natasha Driedger; Chris Frerich; Maria Harris; Lauren Heath; Allison High; Christina Kellum; Amanda Mazzella; Sandra Mendiola; Kelly Hill; Maria Ramirez; Joyce Renteria; Rachel Richardson; Kimberly Roban; Russell Serna Jr.; Dr. Victoria Serna; Stephen Shade

Consider
Approval of the
Revised 2020-
2021 School
Year Calendar

Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Mia Price

To approve the proposed calendar with an August 26, 2020 start date.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm

President

Secretary