



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Al Roberts, Superintendent
Members of the Board of Education
From: Joanne W. Schochat, J.D., *JWS*
Asst. Supt. H.R./General Counsel
Re: 2013-14 Proposed Calendar
Date: Jan. 3, 2013

Please find attached the proposed calendar for the 2013-14 school year. In attendance at the December 19, 2012 meeting to discuss the same were: Peter Traczyk, Dr. Roberts, Lisa Schwartz, Jason Gold, Lee Ann Roskopf, Monica Madan, Todd Fitzgerald, Angela Dolezal, and me. Each of the District's collective bargaining units were invited to send representatives to the meeting.

Some features of the proposed calendar:

- At the time of our meeting, OPRF High School had not yet set its calendar for 13-14. The proposed calendar for Oak Park 97 aligns spring break and winter break with the other feeder elementary school district to OPRF, District 91.
- The committee was interested in moving the typical celebrations of three (3) holidays, Veterans' Day (Nov. 11), Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12), and Pulaski Day (first Monday in March) to days that are immediately adjacent to other holidays (or in the case of Lincoln's Birthday, adjacent to a weekend). Recent revisions to the School Code permit Board of Education to commute the celebration of five (5) holidays without the necessity of obtaining a waiver from ISBE.¹

Commuting the holidays to non-typical days will require the Board to conduct a public hearing regarding the same before adopting the calendar, and require that the person(s) honored by the holiday be recognized through instructional activities conducted on the day of the typical celebration (or the first student attendance day before that date, if the typical day of celebration is a day of no student attendance).

The committee recommends ...

- that Lincoln's Birthday, Tuesday, February 12, be moved to the day designated as President's Day, **Monday, February 18, 2014**².

The District has celebrated this February holiday as "President's Day" for the past several years, based on a waiver obtained from ISBE. Obtaining a special waiver for Lincoln's Birthday is no longer required, but the procedures described above will need to be engaged to move the date from Feb. 12 to another date.

¹ Those five (5) holidays are: the third Monday in January (birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.), February 12 (birthday of President Abraham Lincoln), the first Monday in March (Casimir Pulaski's birthday), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans' Day). 105 ILCS 5/24-2

² District 91 has designated this date as the "Presidents' Day" holiday.

- that Veterans' Day be moved to the Wednesday immediately preceding Thanksgiving Day, **November 27, 2013³**.

Having the day before Thanksgiving off in 2012 was very popular with our students and employees. Moving Veterans' Day, one of the holidays expressly identified in each of the District's labor agreements, permits Nov. 27 to be a day off for all employees of the school district without adding an additional holiday to the calendar.

In connection with Nov. 11, it is recommended that a Teacher Institute be conducted that day. Nov. 11 will then be a day of no student attendance, but the rest of the employees will be present that day.

- that Pulaski Day be moved to **Friday, March 21, 2014⁴**, the Friday immediately preceding spring break.

Alternatively, the committee recommends that Pulaski Day be moved to **Monday, April 21**, the day after Easter, as spring break is not connected to Easter in 2013.

Similar to the situation involving Veterans' Day, moving Pulaski Day, one of the holidays expressly identified in each of the District's labor agreements, permits the day off for all employees of the school district without adding an additional holiday to the calendar. Also, it permits the District to use Monday, March 3 (the typical date for Pulaski Day) as a day for conducting ISATs, as well as avoiding conducting ISAT testing immediately following the students' return to school after a holiday.

- The suggested designated calendar dates are:

July 4	Independence Day
August 22	Institute Day-No student attendance
August 23	Institute Day-No student attendance
August 26	First Day of Classes
Sept. 2	Labor Day
Oct. 10-11	Parent Conferences. A.M. student attendance
Oct. 14	Columbus Day
Nov. 11	Institute Day-No student attendance
Nov. 16	End of first trimester
Nov. 27	Veterans' Day-commuted
Nov. 28-29	Thanksgiving Celebration
Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Winter Break
Jan. 20	M. L. King, Jr. Birthday
Jan. 30-31	Parent Conferences. A.M. student attendance
Feb. 14	Institute Day-No student attendance
Feb. 18	Presidents' Day/Lincoln's Birthday-commuted
Feb. 22	End of second trimester
March 3-14	ISAT testing (set by ISBE)
March 21	Pulaski Day - commuted
March 24-28	Spring break
April 18	Good Friday
May 26	Memorial Day
June 4	Last day of school if no emergency days used
June 5-11	Emergency days

³ District 91 is having its students report to school on Nov. 11 and has Nov. 27 as a day of no student attendance.

⁴ District 91 is conducting parent conferences this date, so students will not be in attendance.