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To: Members, Board of Education

Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

From: Laurie Campbell, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

RE: Draft 2020-2021 Calendar

Date: April 9, 2019

The District 97 Calendar Committee, which is comprised of representatives from the district's administration, faculty and staff, met on January 23, 2019. The committee reviewed and made necessary updates to the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 draft calendars. They also created the draft 2020-2021 calendar. All three calendars are considered draft calendars until May of the final year of each calendar when the Board will take action and officially designate the last day for the school year.

The 2018-2019 final calendar will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at either the last meeting in April or the first meeting in May. The updated draft 2019-2020 calendar was approved by the Board of Education on February 26, 2019. Following conversations with Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 and River Forest Elementary School District 90, we are now ready to bring forward the draft 2020-2021 calendar for approval.

2020-2021 Draft Calendar - The committee has completed its work on a proposed calendar for the draft 2020-2021 school year. This proposed calendar complies with the number of student attendance days that are required by the Illinois School Code and the number of staff attendance days from the district's current collective bargaining agreements.

The Calendar Committee created the draft calendar according to the following goals: 1) alignment with District 200's major breaks (Thanksgiving, winter and spring), 2) clustering days of non-attendance whenever possible, 3) balancing the length of trimesters, and 4) placing parent-teacher conferences at a point during the trimester that allows students time to address any performance concerns.

The 2020-2021 draft calendar is also created in alignment with Section 24-2 of the Illinois School Code that addresses holidays and District 97 Board of Education Policy 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day. A school board may hold school or teachers' institutes on some school holidays provided the person(s) honored by the holiday are recognized through instruction conducted on that day. During the review of School Code, the committee learned that School Code lists Good Friday as a holiday and does not allow for school to be in session on this day. The Board will need to hold a public hearing prior to approval of the final calendar in order to hold school on the aforementioned school holidays. The following are some features of the 2020-2021 draft calendar:

- Teacher institute days are scheduled prior to the start of the school year and on elections days in November of 2020 and April of 2021.
- Schools will be closed in observance of Indigenous People's Day on October 12, 2020. District 200 has not made a decision about whether or not school will be in session on October 12, 2020.
- As has been the case for several years, the Calendar Committee is recommending schools remain open on Casimir Pulaski Day and Veteran's Day and that schools close on President's Day instead of Lincoln's Birthday.
- District 200 has established the dates for winter break. The draft 2020-2021 calendar aligns with District 200's winter break.
- District 200 and District 90 have not formally approved the 2021 spring break yet but have committed to scheduling spring break during the last week in March. Closing schools during the last week in March of 2021 will coincide with Good Friday and would result in one less shortened school week.

• District 200 has not established a start date yet for the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of student attendance is on a Wednesday following the same pattern as in the previous two school years.

The Board has requested that all reports address the following questions:

- Equity: What are the differential experiences of children by achievement level and by household income? (Could be a slightly different set of categories, for example, single parents, households with an without internet access, etc.) What is being done to achieve equity or balance in other ways?

The committee is presenting a draft calendar more than one year in advance so that all families may be able to plan in advance for days when school is not in session.

- Communication with key stakeholders: What is being done/has been done to elicit include feedback/ideas from teachers, parents, older students, administrators, or other key stakeholders. What are the most common concerns and positive comments received and how are they being addressed?

The committee is comprised of teachers from the Oak Park Teachers' Association, school office staff, and district administrators. Prior to starting work on the 2020-2021 calendar, the administration consulted with the Director of Buildings and Grounds to seek input on the start date given the work that needs to be done in the schools in the summer months. Minutes from the Calendar Committee Meeting were shared with the district's Education Council at their February meeting. Information about the District 200 2020-2021 calendar was gathered and provided to the committee for consideration while working on the various calendars. District 97 administration contacted administrators in District 200 and District 97 to coordinate the scheduling of 2021 spring break among the three districts.

- Evaluation and on-going improvement: What are the goals of this particular activity - how do we know if it is successful or not? What is the plan for measurement of how implementation is going? What "hard" data will be captured and what 'soft' data (impressions, opinions, etc.) will be incorporate? What information (not anecdotes) is available at this stage?

Establishing the calendar is an annual process that involves input from teachers, support staff, administration with final approval by the Board of Education.

- Resource requirements: What resources are involved in this implementation/activity? This should include not just direct dollars, but class time, teacher prep/planning time, parental inputs, school facilities drawn from other purposes, etc. How do we reflect on how well they are being put to use, if greater efficiencies are required, or if more resources could profitably be devoted to the activity?

Establishing the calendar does not require any additional resources or preparation time.

Oak Park School District 97 Draft School Calendar for 2020-2021 - April 9, 2019

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Report Card Distribution Dates:

Trimester 1 Report Card Distribution Date: December 4, 2020 Trimester 2 Report Card Distribution Date: March 16, 2021 Trimester 3 Report Card Distribution Date: June 8, 2021