



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

260 Madison Oak Park Illinois 60302 ph: 708.524.3000 fax: 708.524.3019 www.op97.org

To: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Schools

From: Gina Herrmann, Senior Director of Human Resources

RE: Calendar Committee Report and Recommendations

Date: February 18, 2020

The District 97 Calendar Committee, which is comprised of representatives from the district's administration, faculty and staff, met on January 14, 2020. The committee reviewed the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 draft calendars and no changes were needed to date. They also created the draft 2022-2022 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.

2019-2020 Draft Calendar - The 2019-2020 draft calendar was updated last summer to convert two teacher inservice days to two student attendance days following the approval of the collective bargaining agreement with the Oak Park Teachers Association (OPTA). This change increased the number of student attendance days from the Illinois School Code minimum of 176 to 178 student attendance days. The final 2019-2020 calendar will be brought to the Board for final action in May once winter is over..

2020 -2021 Draft Calendar - The 2020-2021 draft calendar was approved by the Board of Education last winter. No changes were made.

2021-2022 Draft Calendar - The committee has completed its work on a proposed calendar for the draft 2021-2022 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, 4) late start due to building construction, and 5) placing parent-teacher conferences at a point during the trimester that allows students time to address any performance concerns.

The 2021-2022 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 2021 and March of 2022.
- Schools will be closed in observance of Indigenous People's Day on October 11, 2021. D200 is also closed on this day.
- 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 and spring break. The draft 2021-2022 calendar aligns with District 200's winter break.
- District 200 has the start date of August 16 for the 2021-2022 school year. Due to construction, the first day of student attendance is Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

The Calendar Committee has concluded its work that is reflected in the recommended draft calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.