



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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

From: Laurie Campbell, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Re: Proposed Calendar for 2018-19 School Year

Date: December 20, 2016

The District 97 Calendar Committee, which is comprised of representatives from the Board of Education and the district's administration, faculty and staff, has completed its work on a proposed calendar for the 2018-19 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 began by identifying priorities for the development of the 2018-2019 Calendar. Aligning with District 200's major breaks (Thanksgiving, winter and spring), clustering days of non-attendance whenever possible, creating a calendar that provides for the instructional needs of our students, and placing parent-teacher conferences mid-trimester were among the priorities used to develop the calendar.

After identifying priorities, the Committee reviewed 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. The Calendar Committee is recommending that schools should be open on Casimir Pulaski Day, that schools close on President's Day instead of Lincoln's Birthday, and that schools remain open in honor of Veteran's 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.

Below are several important aspects of the proposed calendar the committee would like to highlight for the board and general public.

- The major breaks (Thanksgiving, winter and spring) and federal holidays (Labor Day, Memorial Day, etc.) will continue to be in sync with District 200.
- The Illinois State Board of Education recommends that schools, which also serve as polling places, close on election days. Institute Days are scheduled on the two election days – Tuesday, November 6, 2018, and Tuesday, April 2, 2019.
- Similar to the 2017-2018 Calendar, students will start the 2018-19 school year on a Wednesday. The committee recommended extending this practice for a second year for the same reasons that were cited by the previous year's committee.
 - It will help younger children, especially those beginning kindergarten, with their transition into the start of the school year.
 - It will more closely align the first day of student attendance with District 200's first day of student attendance.
 - Staff will start the year with two Institute Days and will end the year with an Institute Day following the last day of student attendance.

- The Calendar Committee carefully reviewed the placement of parent teacher conferences. The second round of conferences is scheduled adjacent to the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. Placing conferences earlier in the second semester will provide students more time to achieve goals set during conferences.

The district's proposed calendar for the 2018-19 school year is being presented to the board tonight for review and discussion. A final draft will be brought back to the Board for action no later than mid-February. The required public hearing will be scheduled prior to final action by the Board.