

VI. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Information Only

Initial Discussion of 2011-2012 TPSD School Calendar

Mr. Billy Crews

The Communications Department is providing two draft options of our 2011-2012 school calendar for your initial review and feedback. Subsequently, we will be sharing these options with a ad hoc team of 15 members within our district including teachers (5), principals (5) and parent representatives (5) for input as well. We also will solicit input from all senior administrative leaders. This will ensure maximum input, understanding and ownership when a final proposal is submitted for your approval at our March 29 meeting.

Option 1 characteristics compared to last year's schedule include:

- *four teacher work days at the beginning of the school years compared to only two last year;
- *five 60 percent days built into the schedule for teacher training compared to zero built into last year's initial calendar;
- *a teacher work day without students in October which will serve as the Columbus Day holiday for students only (a teacher work day is especially beneficial after the first nine-week period on the block schedule);
- *two teacher work days without students to begin the second semester compared to only one the previous year;
- *only two teacher work days at the end of the second semester compared to three or more the previous year.

Also, please see the footnotes at the bottom of the proposed calendar which provide further narrative explanation of the calendar. We have not designated a day for the CDF-sponsored Industry Education Day, but are working with Lee County school personnel and CDF on that activity. Our goal is to have that on a scheduled teacher work day so as not to disrupt an instructional day as has occurred in the past.

Option 2 represents an alternative that places Tupelo and Lee County schools on the same schedule with the exceptions that we have 189 teacher contract days compared to 187 for Lee County and we have five 60 percent days compared to seven in Lee County. We believe moving toward a common calendar may have value in the future so we are providing this modified version as our second option. We have not had a complete process in place to build a true common calendar this year, but have shared information among our districts for comparison purposes.

We look forward to feedback and guidance from our Trustees on the school calendar. Next year we plan to submit our calendar for approval during the month of February. Also, we intend to develop a sample calendar next year which further optimizes student instruction time and minimizes disruption to learning.