



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 – Revised Recommendation

Date: February 28, 2017

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.

- After receiving feedback from members of the OPTA, the Calendar Committee carefully reviewed the placement of parent teacher conferences in the initial 2018-2019 draft calendar. Initially, the second round of conferences was scheduled adjacent to the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King (January 17 and 18). In the new draft, conferences are moved to January 31st and February 1st. This is the only change from the previous draft calendar that was presented to the Board in December and January. The Committee decided to move the conferences to a later date in response to concerns that MAP testing typically occurs during the first two weeks in January. Having conferences and MAP testing in the same week was a concern. Moving the conferences to the end of January met the Committee's desire to place them early enough in the trimester to allow for students to apply feedback provided at conferences.
- The major breaks (Thanksgiving, winter and spring) and federal holidays (Labor Day, Memorial Day, etc.) will continue to be in sync with District 200.
- District 200 and District 97's start and end to the school year are within two days of each other.