

Mahtomedi Public Schools
Independent School District #832
1520 Mahtomedi Avenue
Mahtomedi, MN 55115

Regular Meeting - Board of Education

Date: November 10, 2025

Agenda Item # 11. C.

TOPIC: 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

BACKGROUND:

Legislative Context

In developing the proposed 2026–2027 academic calendar, the Calendar Committee considered recent Minnesota legislation related to permissible school start dates. Specifically, the committee referenced a temporary legislative provision which affords districts the flexibility to consider a pre–Labor Day start for the 2026–2027 year, should the school board deem it educationally and operationally beneficial.

Initial Proposal and Academic Considerations

The Calendar Committee’s initial proposal recommended that the 2026–2027 school year begin on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, with the first week of school running September 1–4, 2026.

In formulating this proposal, the committee identified the academic benefits of a slightly earlier start, particularly for high school students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) and other spring-administered standardized assessments. Beginning the year earlier allows for additional instructional days prior to the national AP testing window, supporting student preparedness.

The committee also noted that the 2025-26 academic year concludes earlier than usual, on June 4. As a result, a September 1, 2026 start does not shorten the traditional summer break compared to a typical school year.

Board Discussion and Community Feedback

The Board of Education reviewed and discussed the committee’s initial proposal on August 25, 2025, and September 8, 2025.

Community members provided input regarding family scheduling preferences, and the impact of a pre-Labor Day start on summer activities. The Board asked the committee to review this feedback.

Revised Proposal

After reviewing feedback and with the ability to start before September 1 due to the recent passage of the facilities bond referendum, the Calendar Committee revised its recommendation.

The updated proposal sets the **first day of school on Monday, August 31, 2026**, with the **first week of school running August 31–September 3, 2026**. This structure allows for a **four-day Labor Day weekend** (September 4–7, 2026), balancing academic priorities with community preferences surrounding the holiday.

Summary

The proposed 2026–2027 academic calendar reflects a balance among instructional value, community input, operational needs, and legislative flexibility. The Calendar Committee appreciates the engagement of staff, families, and community members throughout this process and submits this proposal for the Board's consideration and potential approval.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Duffin', is written over a horizontal line.

Superintendent of Schools