

Fort Smith Public Schools Inclement Weather Calendar Waiver Request

Items Included in this request:

- **Inclement Weather Calendar Waiver Request**
- **A copy of the 2023-24 Traditional Calendar**
- **A copy of the 2023-24 Minutes Based Calendar**
- **PPC Voting Results**
- **Classified PPC Voting Results**
- **Community Survey Data**
- **Board Presentation, Approval and Board Minutes to move to a traditional 2023-24 calendar to a minutes based 2023-24 calendar**

Inclement Weather Calendar Waiver Request



Inclement Weather Calendar Waiver Request

District:	Fort Smith Public Schools
LEA Number:	6601000
Superintendent:	Dr. Terry Morawski
Email:	tmorawski@fortsmithschools.org
Contact for Waiver:	Martin Mahan
Contact Email:	mmahan@fortsmithschools.org
Contact Phone:	479-785-2501
Date Received by DESE:	

The following documents must be submitted with the waiver request:

- 1. Board resolution approving the waiver request**
- 2. Evidence of stakeholder involvement, including teachers and student families**

Waiver Request #1

Topic:	Alternate School Calendar Submission Deadlines
Standards/Statutes/Rules:	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106(g)(3)
Duration Requested:	2023-2024 School Year
Name of Open-Enrollment Charter Holding the Waiver	
Schools, Grades or Classes the Waiver Will Apply To	K-12
PURPOSE OF THE WAIVER (Must check at least one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Student Learning Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Equitable Access to Effective Teachers

1. Provide a DETAILED RATIONALE explaining how the waiver will enhance student learning opportunities, promote innovation, or increase equitable access to effective teachers. Include information about the problem or obstacle, if any, the waiver will help the district overcome.

The Fort Smith Public Schools Personnel Policy Committee (PPC) and Classified Personnel Policy Committee (CPPC) have approved an amended 2023-24 school year calendar. When the 2023-24 school calendar was initially approved there was uncertainty as to the availability of the Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) days. Because AMI days are not available for use without forfeiting the LEARNS funding used to increase teacher salaries, both committees approved an amendment to the calendar that would allow the use of the remaining Professional Development (PD) days as make-up days for the recent inclement weather. Those dates are: February 19th, March 15th, and April 22nd. If approved, these dates would become student instructional days and the PD days would be moved to the earliest available non-student days in the calendar. Additionally, recent information received from the Commissioner of Education will allow for the use of instructional minutes to make up for missed days due to inclement weather. Under the current bell schedules, there is enough time to account for a minimum of two (2) instructional days that would not need to be made up if switching to the alternative school calendar option.

2. Provide a detailed explanation of how the services being waived will be provided for students.

No services are being waived in this request. Students will still receive the required face to face instruction time.

3. Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver.

The district will utilize the minutes that have already been banked in the traditional calendar. Those minutes will allow the district to replace two of the four days missed due to dangerous weather conditions with the quality instructional minutes that have already been banked. This waiver will also allow for the district to convert two scheduled staff professional development days to student face to face instructional days. The district will compare the student and staff attendance of a traditional face to face instructional day with the student and staff attendance

during two converted staff professional development days.

Traditional 2023-24 Calendar

July 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August
August 7, 8, & 10 Professional Development
August 9 Teacher Work Day
August 11 No School
August 14 Students Report - First Day of School
September
4 Labor Day

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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August 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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October
11 End of First Quarter (42 Days)
16 Parent-Teacher Conferences (MS/HS) 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
17 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary) 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
19 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Schools) 3:30-6:30 p.m.
20 No School - Fall Break
23 Professional Development (Teachers Report) - No School
November
20 - 24 Thanksgiving Break
December
15 End of Second Quarter (40 days)
18 - 29 Winter Break
January
1 Winter Break
2 Teacher Work Day
3 Students Report
12 Professional Development (Teachers Report) - No School
15 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday - No School
February
19 Professional Development (Teachers Report) - No School
March
8 End of Third Quarter (45 days)
11 Parent-Teacher Conferences (MS/HS) 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary) 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
14 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Schools) 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
15 Professional Development (Teachers Report) - No School
18 - 22 Spring Break No School
29 Holiday - No School
April
22 - PD Flex Day (Teachers Report) - No School
May
16 Northside High School Graduation
17 Southside High School Graduation
27 Memorial Day
31 Last Student Day - End of Quarter (51 days)
May and June
June 3-7 - Make up days as needed

February 2024						
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September 2023						
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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26	27	28	29	30		

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May and June
June 3-7 - Make up days as needed

May 2024						
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December 2023						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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May
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17 Southside High School Graduation
27 Memorial Day
31 Last Student Day - End of Quarter (51 days)
May and June
June 3-7 - Make up days as needed

June 2024						
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Instructional & Teacher Contract Days: Calendar includes 178 Student Instructional Days & 190 Teacher Contract Days. Teacher calendar includes 7 Professional Development Days, 1 PD Flex Day, 2 Teacher Workday/Records Days, and 2 Days Credit for Parent-Teacher Conference Times.
Make Up Days for Any Event that Closes School: Due to the uncertainty of the district's ability to utilize Alternative Methods of Instruction Days (AMI), make-up days due to school closure would be June 3rd through 7th. **June 10-14** will be used as make up days if additional days are needed. AMI usage versus make-up days is yet to be determined and will be defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and legislative action.

Minutes Based 2023-24 Calendar

July 2023						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

August 2023						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
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October 2023						
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29	30	31				

November 2023						
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December 2023						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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School Day	
Elementary School	8:00 - 3:00 (390 minutes)
Middle School	8:05 - 3:15 (372 minutes)
High school	8:05 - 3:15 (365 minutes)
TOTAL HOURS: 1082.83	

August
7, 8, & 10 Professional Development
9 Teacher Work Day
11 No School
14 Students Report - First Day of School

September
4 Labor Day

October
11 End of First Quarter (42 Days - 255.5 Hours)
16 Parent-Teacher Conferences (MS/HS) 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
17 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary) 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
19 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Schools) 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
20 No School - Fall Break
23 Professional Development (No Students)

November
20-24 Thanksgiving Break

December
15 End of Second Quarter (40 Days - 243.33 Hours)
18-29 Winter Break

January
1 Winter Break
2 Teacher Work Day
3 Students Report
12 Professional Development (Teachers Report) - No School
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No School

February
19 Professional Development (Teachers Report) - No School

March
11 End of Third Quarter (46 Days - 279.83 Hours)
11 Parent-Teacher Conferences (MS/HS) 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
12 Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary) 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
14 Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Schools) 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
15 Weather Make Up Day
18-22 Spring Break - No School
29 Holiday - No School

April
22 Weather Make Up Day

May
16 Northside High School Graduation
17 Southside High School Graduation
27 Memorial Day - No School
31 Last Student Day - End of Quarter (50 Days - 304.17 Hours)

June
3 Professional Development Day - No School
4 Professional Development Flex Day - No School

January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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May 2024						
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June 2024						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Instructional & Teacher Contract Days: Calendar includes 1082.83 instructional hours (178 days) & 190 Teacher Contract Days. Teacher calendar includes 7 Professional Development Days, 1 PD Flex Day, 2 Teacher Workday/Records Days, and 2 Days Credit for Parent-Teacher Conference Times.

Inclement Weather: The District is required to show 30 hours of make up time in the event of inclement weather or other emergency circumstances. If the Superintendent cancels school, 14 hours of instructional time are built in the calendar that would not need to be made up. In the event that additional time is necessary to be made up, March 15, April 22, & June 3-5 may be used or time may be added to the remaining instructional days at the discretion of the Superintendent.

**Certified Personnel
Policy Committee and
Classified Personal
Policy Committee
Voting Results**

Fort Smith Public Schools Certified Personnel Policy Committee & The Classified Personnel Policy Committee Voting Results

Personnel Policy Committee

The PPC met on January 31, 2024 and unanimously approved moving from the traditional 2023-24 school calendar to a minutes calendar that would follow the 1068 hour face to face instructional requirement.

Classified Personnel Policy Committee

The Classified PPC met on January 29, 2024 and unanimously approved moving from the traditional 2023-24 school calendar to a minutes calendar that would follow the 1068 hour face to face instructional requirement.

Family and Stakeholder Survey Results

Family and Stakeholder Input

A survey was sent to parents, students and community members to gather their input concerning moving from a traditional 2023-24 school calendar to a minutes calendar that would follow the 1068 hour of face to face instructional requirement. The survey was sent via email and went live on January 25, 2024 and is still active. A copy of those survey entries are attached.

Timing: Please submit the proposal by **Friday, March 15, 2023, at 11:59 PM.** Please provide any feedback you may have on the proposed make-up days for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.

15/20/2024 18.33.19 Parent	This sounds great. I would love to see a solution for make-up days.	
15/20/2024 18.33.20 Parent	Build time to make-up needed.	
15/20/2024 18.33.26 Parent	This seems like a good solution.	
15/20/2024 18.33.46 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.34.07 Parent	This is a good plan.	
15/20/2024 18.34.09 Certified Staff Member	That works	
15/20/2024 18.34.21 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.34.42 Parent	Agree with proposed days	
15/20/2024 18.34.53 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.34.54 Parent	Going on the weekend is not ideal.	
15/20/2024 18.35.04 Parent	Not sure on the weekend. Student attendance would be very low in June.	
15/20/2024 18.35.26 Parent	Support proposed make-up days	
15/20/2024 18.35.58 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.36.19 Parent	That will work out for the teacher.	
15/20/2024 18.36.24 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.36.29 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.36.31 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.36.51 Parent	Parent approves of the plan to use teacher development days. My son will be in bond camp on the days mentioned in June. If he is for whatever it is the best time for him to be ready to bring him home.	
15/20/2024 18.36.54 Parent	Teacher makes more good! There has NOT been any reason for students to go to school after Memorial Day.	
15/20/2024 18.37.00 Parent	Agree with this!	
15/20/2024 18.37.16 Certified Staff Member	Looks good	
15/20/2024 18.37.34 Parent	Agreeable	
15/20/2024 18.37.42 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.37.47 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.37.58 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.38.16 Parent	Yes, this sounds like a good idea!	
15/20/2024 18.38.19 Parent	Yes, this sounds like a good idea.	
15/20/2024 18.38.35 Parent	From the above it seems great for the make-up days. I would ask for my child to NOT go into June.	
15/20/2024 18.38.41 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.38.43 Parent	Agree with this. I would support this plan for Spring break and will be going out of town on the 16th.	
15/20/2024 18.38.50 Parent	Good idea	
15/20/2024 18.38.56 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.38.57 Parent	I strongly support this proposal.	
15/20/2024 18.39.00 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.39.05 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.39.20 Parent	I don't have any feedback. This proposal looks good.	
15/20/2024 18.39.26 Parent	I agree with taking the days to make up school, and not extending the year.	
15/20/2024 18.39.36 Parent	I agree with this proposal. I think it is a good idea and you should be accommodated for more days as this happens every year.	
15/20/2024 18.39.47 Parent	Like it. Kids and teachers won't have to go in June.	
15/20/2024 18.39.48 Parent	Do not agree	
15/20/2024 18.39.53 Parent	Think this schedule would work for our student.	
15/20/2024 18.40.02 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.40.17 Parent	I strongly support a request for my child over Spring break and the pre-its appointment for March 16th. My student currently has just attendance, so this would be disappointing for us.	
15/20/2024 18.40.26 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.40.36 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.41.27 Parent	I like the idea	
15/20/2024 18.41.36 Parent	Looks good	
15/20/2024 18.41.43 Parent	It seems reasonable to me. I would add I believe the storm meant a longer lunch period to get repetitive and not define going back for the remaining class periods of the day just like we all need as adults.	
15/20/2024 18.42.15 Parent	Use those days, March 15th and April 22nd	
15/20/2024 18.42.16 Parent	I like the idea of the March 15, but all of April with no breaks will be a long month.	
15/20/2024 18.42.21 Parent	I like that idea!	
15/20/2024 18.42.22 Parent	Good idea	
15/20/2024 18.42.26 Parent	Agree with the proposed make-up days	
15/20/2024 18.42.44 Parent	March 15 is not a good idea because we booked a spring break. I am now concerned my child will be affected academically by making the make-up day. In my opinion, it will be better to leave the schedule as is and add more days at the end of the year or a virtual option.	
15/20/2024 18.42.47 Parent	Agree with March 15 and April 22nd becoming a Student Day.	
15/20/2024 18.42.56 Parent	MA	
15/20/2024 18.43.09 Parent	I believe the schedule used for development days at the end of break is not ideal. However, the last 2 days of school should be such a problem.	
15/20/2024 18.43.16 Parent	The school can do whatever is most convenient to most parents and teachers. But I don't think they should extend school days into the summer break just to meet some requirement.	
15/20/2024 18.43.58 Parent	Vote yes for proposed make-up days.	
15/20/2024 18.44.00 Parent	Yes, I do not	
15/20/2024 18.44.02 Parent	Good plan!	
15/20/2024 18.44.22 Parent	I know my family booked a vacation that week and already said for it in March that been Spring break and I don't understand why the calendar already had the June dates for make-up and why they would switch it.	
15/20/2024 18.44.32 Parent	Build in time	
15/20/2024 18.44.34 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.44.42 Parent	Agree with this proposal. I agree with the make-up days detailed.	
15/20/2024 18.44.54 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.44.54 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.44.54 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.45.18 Parent	I'm okay with the March & April make-up days	
15/20/2024 18.45.52 Parent	Agree with this. I do not think teachers with additional PD over the summer	
15/20/2024 18.46.38 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.46.38 Parent	Agree with the proposed make-up days. Anything to minimize students needing to go on June 3rd and June 4th.	
15/20/2024 18.46.42 Parent	Build in more time to provide	
15/20/2024 18.46.42 Parent	Agree with this proposal. I agree with the proposed make-up days to make. Instead of having the students make up the summer break that week and have the students that week and have the students that week. They will make up the summer break that week and have the students that week.	
15/20/2024 18.47.07 Parent	I believe that incorporating the use of technology, use during a normal learning platform like Schoology, would be a more effective way to address students to make-up days rather than physically attending school. With the advancements in technology and the availability of internet access, incorporating a virtual learning environment can provide students with the flexibility and convenience to continue their education from anywhere. Schoology offers a wide range of tools. I support this proposal.	
15/20/2024 18.47.11 Parent	Yes, they could make them back to school on Wednesday and Thursday and the request decided to stay open. Together I am against the last being punishment due to the years judgment of the district. Also, we have well in advance about weather conditions and have no ability to make arrangements for school of those days. This is not a multiplication of the system. Therefore I believe the schedule already printed should remain the same.	
15/20/2024 18.47.17 Parent	Agree with the plan	
15/20/2024 18.47.44 Parent	Approved proposed makes up days	
15/20/2024 18.48.05 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.48.05 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.48.22 Parent	We already have time built into Spring break and Easter. Does this mean that over my 11th grader will have less attendance that could impact attendance test? Ask her No thank you. We would prefer to go all the end of the school year.	
15/20/2024 18.48.22 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.48.30 Parent	Very good proposal	
15/20/2024 18.48.30 Parent	Agree	
15/20/2024 18.48.30 Parent	Agree with the above Make up plan	
15/20/2024 18.49.04 Parent	Agree with make up days	
15/20/2024 18.49.12 Parent	Yes, use March and April for make up days	

Feedback

Please provide any feedback you may have on the proposed make-up days for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

March 15 & March 22nd
 We have been planning our trip for spring break & have already started to plan. I was already off the calendar for April 23rd & 24th.
 NA

1/25/2024 18:48:39 Certified Staff Member
 Agree, no issues

1/25/2024 18:48:54 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 18:50:17 Parent
 Yes, they need the summer and this will help with assignments. We have now they really earn it in.

1/25/2024 18:50:18 Certified Staff Member
 I will update them with the March 15 date due to the fact that it is Friday before spring break. I expect many families have already paid for travel and will be unable to change those plans. At the high school level this will create problems with semester tests. I believe parents will proceed if their students are forced to use a parent permission day and they are not in school approval form for semester tests.

1/25/2024 18:50:39 Parent
 On the other hand if the decision is made that not to count parent students, work will get lost and assignments will be poor.

1/25/2024 18:50:54 Parent
 I agree with the proposed date.

1/25/2024 18:51:07 Parent
 The parents has a good solution to make up those days.

1/25/2024 18:51:12 Certified Staff Member
 I am proposing the date of March 15th as a make-up day for the school year. I am not making a decision on this yet.

1/25/2024 18:51:27 Parent
 We had our school May the same. I would not mind if we had a day off on the weekend. I already have double appointments on the day that I can't remember but why do we need president's day off?

1/25/2024 18:52:13 Certified Staff Member
 I'm in support of the proposal.

1/25/2024 18:52:27 Parent
 Thank You

1/25/2024 18:52:33 Parent
 I have no problem with this

1/25/2024 18:52:38 Parent
 This solution is favorable

1/25/2024 18:52:51 Parent
 Agree with proposed make-up days

1/25/2024 18:53:08 Parent
 Agree with proposed proposal

1/25/2024 18:53:15 Parent
 No make-up days should be needed. Bring back virtual learning!

1/25/2024 18:54:17 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 18:54:38 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 18:54:58 Parent
 March 15th and April 22nd will be great for make-up days

1/25/2024 18:55:19 Parent
 Sounds good to me

1/25/2024 18:55:22 Parent
 Looks good

1/25/2024 18:55:33 Parent
 Sounds good as long as it is in the summer. Plus, an education needs to be taught before the ACT test for better results at the end of the year.

1/25/2024 18:55:46 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 18:55:59 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 18:56:02 Certified Staff Member
 I would like this

1/25/2024 18:56:10 Parent
 These dates work well. Parents and kids will appreciate not having school in June.

1/25/2024 18:56:15 Parent
 I would like this

1/25/2024 18:56:28 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 18:56:36 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 18:57:16 Parent
 Add to end of year

1/25/2024 18:57:22 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 18:57:36 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 18:58:09 Parent
 This is a better idea than adding them to the end

1/25/2024 18:58:20 Parent
 Sounds good

1/25/2024 18:59:10 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 18:59:12 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 18:59:19 Parent
 NA

1/25/2024 19:01:00 Parent
 Sounds good

1/25/2024 19:01:09 Parent
 Assesses

1/25/2024 19:01:16 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:01:27 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:01:41 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:02:25 Parent
 We have family travel made for those two summer meetings days in March and April. The school calendar staff had made up days were scheduled for the first week of June, so we left that alone. If it changes though, what are we supposed to do? We try to get the calendar as close to the current calendar as possible. Please contact me with the answer to my questions. Auto: Madona.walton@unlv.edu

1/25/2024 19:02:37 Parent
 These dates look good to me!

1/25/2024 19:02:42 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:03:37 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:04:22 Parent
 I think this is good!

1/25/2024 19:04:28 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:04:38 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:04:46 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:05:00 Parent
 If they are necessary

1/25/2024 19:05:09 Parent
 I support the proposal

1/25/2024 19:05:22 Certified Staff Member
 This is fine

1/25/2024 19:05:44 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:05:59 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:06:17 Parent
 Sounds good to me.

1/25/2024 19:06:22 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 19:06:27 Parent
 I think it's a good one

1/25/2024 19:06:39 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:06:50 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:07:40 Parent
 I like this solution

1/25/2024 19:08:03 Parent
 I like the date

1/25/2024 19:08:49 Parent
 Sounds good

1/25/2024 19:08:50 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:09:38 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:09:38 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:10:16 Parent
 Yes

1/25/2024 19:10:32 Certified Staff Member
 Lower I think you see this and I'm not looking at this. Best use of instructional days BEFORE state testing starts. GREAT WORK!

1/25/2024 19:10:37 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:10:57 Parent
 This works

1/25/2024 19:11:05 Parent
 Sounds good

1/25/2024 19:11:09 Parent
 Sounds good to me

1/25/2024 19:11:14 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:11:56 Parent
 Sounds great! I'm glad our school has Summer Development Days for this very reason!

1/25/2024 19:12:00 Parent
 I like the proposal

1/25/2024 19:12:24 Parent
 I agree with the proposal

1/25/2024 19:13:38 Parent
 These days are fine

Disclaimer: Please select the option that best describes your response to the proposed make up days for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. Please provide any feedback you may have on the proposed make up days for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.

1/29/2024 12:12:11	Parent	Agree
1/29/2024 12:18:26	Parent	I think this is a good option
1/29/2024 12:38:26	Parent	Sounds good
1/29/2024 13:04:52	Parent	Yes
1/29/2024 13:10:24	Parent	I agree to the proposed days
1/29/2024 13:13:03	Parent	as long as that way their last day of school is still the same
1/29/2024 15:26:03	Parent	Sounds like a good plan.
1/29/2024 16:25:31	Parent	I like this option
1/29/2024 16:27:33	Parent	I approve
1/29/2024 16:52:27	Parent	Yes
1/29/2024 20:01:13	Parent	You can use the spring break to make up the days that students not go to school for the weather
1/29/2024 21:48:33	Parent	Yes those make up dates are fine with me
1/29/2024 23:03:08	Parent	I'm fine with either I want what's best for the kids and the staff
1/29/2024 1:33:34	Parent	For this
1/29/2024 7:58:19	Parent	Use those teacher professional days
1/29/2024 7:49:12	Parent	Agree
1/29/2024 8:18:56	Parent	Alternate Options, add 30 minutes a day to school days as necessary?
1/29/2024 8:53:04	Parent	Yes those days would be perfect to make up missed school days
1/29/2024 8:15:43	Certified Staff Member	Chay with me to use PD days
1/29/2024 10:53:54	Parent	Good idea
1/29/2024 12:36:33	Parent	This is the best solution!
1/29/2024 12:48:40	Parent	Agreed
1/29/2024 16:40:37	Certified Staff Member	As a teacher, I need those instructional days. There is not enough time in the day to accomplish all the things we do. Especially losing the April work day is going to cause a lot of burn out on that home stretch to the end of the year with squirming teenagers
1/29/2024 17:41:21	Parent	The proposed seems fine
1/29/2024 18:02:46	Parent	That's an acceptable plan, instead of extending the school year out.
1/29/2024 22:44:08	Parent	March 15th and April 22nd for make up days would be great
1/31/2024 11:18:58	Parent	100% agree with this plan. I would prefer not to extend the school year. That being said, I think it would benefit the children to have a schedule that was year round with more summer breaks than a really long one in the summer
1/31/2024 13:21:00	Parent	We have already scheduled to be out of town for spring break so I would vote to add the days to the end of the year
2/1/2024 4:50:08	Parent	Carla Adams will be there! Thank you for the heads up!
2/1/2024 12:21:00	Parent	That's fine
2/1/2024 21:01:51	Parent	WB work for us. Thanks!
2/1/2024 22:52:58	Parent	Sounds good
2/2/2024 10:06:11	Parent	No feedback
2/2/2024 23:01:19	Parent	We are not opposed to either option if the teachers can handle the professional development days taken away for students to attend class. Even let's do that. If I will stress them out, we are free to attend a couple of extra days at the end. We want the teachers to be happy and have success teaching the children.
2/3/2024 4:47:41	Parent	Agree
2/3/2024 8:13:07	Parent	Agree
2/3/2024 16:51:58	Parent	Use 2/15 and 4/22 as student days. as long as teachers will not be penalized for not having PD they need
2/5/2024 2:05:00	Parent	I like it and agree to these days

**Board Abstract,
Presentation and
Minutes Showing the
Board Approval to
move from a
Traditional to a
Minutes Based 2023-24
Calendar**



Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Amending the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

DATE: January 22, 2024

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Chris Davis
Assistant Superintendent

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The Fort Smith Public Schools Personnel Policy Committee (PPC) and Classified Personnel Policy Committee (CPPC) have approved an amended 2023-24 school year calendar.

When the 2023-24 school calendar was initially approved there was uncertainty as to the availability of the Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) days. Because AMI days are not available for use without forfeiting the LEARNS funding used to increase teacher salaries, both committees approved an amendment to the calendar that would allow the use of the remaining Professional Development (PD) days as make up days for the recent inclement weather. Those dates are: February 19th, March 15th, and April 22nd. If approved, these dates would become student instructional days and the PD days would be moved the earliest available non-student days in the calendar. Additionally, recent information received from the Commissioner of Education will allow for the use of instructional minutes to make up for missed days due to inclement weather. Under the current bell schedules, there is enough time to account for a minimum of two (2) instructional days that would not need to be made up.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends that the Board of Education approve the amended 2023-2024 school year calendar.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read: ***move to approve the amended 2023-2024 school year calendar to including the use of instructional minutes and/or Professional Development days as student make up days.***

Board of Education

Minutes of The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, January 22, 2024, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Mr. Dalton Person, president, called the meeting to order noting seven board members were present. Other board members present were: Ms. Talicia Richardson, Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Sandy Dixon and Ms. Susan Krafft. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Dr. Tiffany Bone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Michael Farrell, Executive Director of Student Services, Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Shawn Shaffer; Executive Director of Facility Operations; Ms. Zena Featherston Marshall, Executive Director, Community & Business Partnerships; Ms. Shari Cooper, Director, Communications; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mr. Marshall Ney of Friday, Eldridge, and Clark, District Attorney was also in attendance via Zoom.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski reported the next regular school board meeting will be Monday, February 26, 2024.

Dr Morawski's Good Things Going on the District included: Southside alumni Madison Marsh was crowned Miss America; the City of Fort Smith received the Arkansas Municipal League's Trendsetter Award recognizing the work of the Peak Innovation Center; videos for the Peak Innovation Center are being featured in our local movie theaters; Fort Smith Public Schools were featured in the *Arkansas Love Where You Live* magazine; Euper Lane Elementary was celebrated as being a 2023 Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase school; Samuel Evans, a student at Euper Lane Elementary, was named the Military Kid of the Month; Northside High School students were featured in a news story when they witnessed a theft and returned the property to the owner; and several students from Northside and Southside received the OSHA Construction Safety and Health certification.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included the December Financial Statement, December 18 Minutes, January Professional Staff Recommendations, January Student Services Report, and the Community Service Learning Partner Site Applications.

Mr. Whiteaker requested that the item number 8.5, Community Service Learning Partner Site Applications, be removed for individual consideration.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the Community Service Learning Partner Site Applications. The vote passed 7-0.

At 5:39 PM, Mr. Whiteaker recused himself from this agenda item.

Ms. Dixon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to approve the Community Service Learning Partner Site Application. The vote passed 6-0.

Note: Mr. Whiteaker returned to the meeting at 5:40 PM.

CONSIDER ADOPTING THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Dr. Davis presented the guidelines and different options provided by the state concerning school calendars. These include a traditional school calendar, alternate school calendar, 4-day week school calendar, and year round school calendar. Fort Smith Public Schools currently uses the traditional calendar which is a 190 day teacher contract. This contract includes 178 student days, 2 parent/teacher conference days, 8 professional development days, and 2 teacher work days.

Dr. Davis continued by stating that the alternate school calendar is also referred to as an instructional hours based calendar. This calendar requires 1068 instructional hours per year. In using the current structure for elementary students and extending the instructional minutes for the secondary students by 15 minutes each day this would provide 172 student days, 2 parent/teacher conference days, 8 professional development days, 6 staff collaboration days, and 2 teacher work days.

Dr. Davis advised with the banked minutes of the alternate calendar the end date for students was earlier as well as building in more flexibility for inclement weather days.

Dr. Davis stated that feedback regarding the calendar was gathered from the Personal Policy Committee Calendar Committee, the Classified Personnel Policy Committee, staff, and parents.

Mr. Warren confirmed that the summer feeding programs would continue on the day after Memorial Day for 2024.

Ms. Krafft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the 2024-2025 school year calendar as presented. The vote passed 7-0.

CONSIDER AMENDING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Dr. Morawski explained that the use of Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) is not available to use during days school is closed for inclement weather. Currently, the district has a total of four weather days to make up.

Dr. Morawski stated information recently received from the Commissioner of Education gives the district the option to convert to using instructional minutes to assist in making up days. In addition, the Commissioner would allow the district to substitute remaining professional development days or holidays on the existing calendar could be used for makeup days.

Dr. Davis stated the Personal Policy Committee and the Classified Personal Policy Committee met and voted to convert professional development days to student days as needed. These days include February 19, March 15, and April 22. The professional development days would then be moved to June 3 and June 4. Dr. Davis continued that the use of instructional minutes would build in two days of instructional time that would not need to be made up.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blaylock, to approve the amended 2023-2024 school year calendar to including the use of instructional minutes and/or professional development days as student make up days. The vote passed 7-0.

CONSIDER APPROVING AMENDED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Dr. Cohen Minton provided a mid-year update to each school's improvement plans. Dr. Cohen Minton also shared how the schools were progressing using the Common Summative Assessment comparisons for grades 3-5 and grades 6-10. Dr. Cohen Minton stated each school's improvement plans align with the district continuous improvement plan.

Dr. Cohen Minton also provided results from the safe learning environment survey from parents, students, and staff, and compared percentages from last school year and this school year regarding out of school suspension, students achieving 95% attendance, and district staff attendance.

Ms. Dixon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krafft, to approve the amended school improvement plans for the 2023-2024 school year. The vote passed 7-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION REQUIRED FOR THE 2024 MASTER BUILDING PLAN

Mr. Velasquez explained the master building plan is a process that is required from the state to update the district's master plan. These plans are to be submitted every three years for a six year master plan. The district is not obligated to complete projects listed in the master facilities plan.

Mr. Velasquez proceeded to review each of the proposed projects for each of the years, including those that are covered under insurance due to hail damage. The estimated total cost of the master plan cycle for 2024-2030 is \$23,372,000, which \$19,632,000 of that total is insurance work.

Mr. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to approve the resolution for support of the 2024 master plan and academic facilities partnership program. The vote passed 7-0.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The next regular scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 26, 2024.

Ms. Richardson thanked Dr. Morawski and administration for the careful consideration of all students during the inclement weather.

Mr. Chitwood recognized Dr. Morawski for his involvement in the community, specifically the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Blaylock questioned why it is cold in the hallways at Northside and inquired how many square feet is not heated. Mr. Velasquez answered during the HVAC project heat was installed where heat was already established.

Mr. Person stated at this time there is not an update to the Peak third party review.

ADJOURN

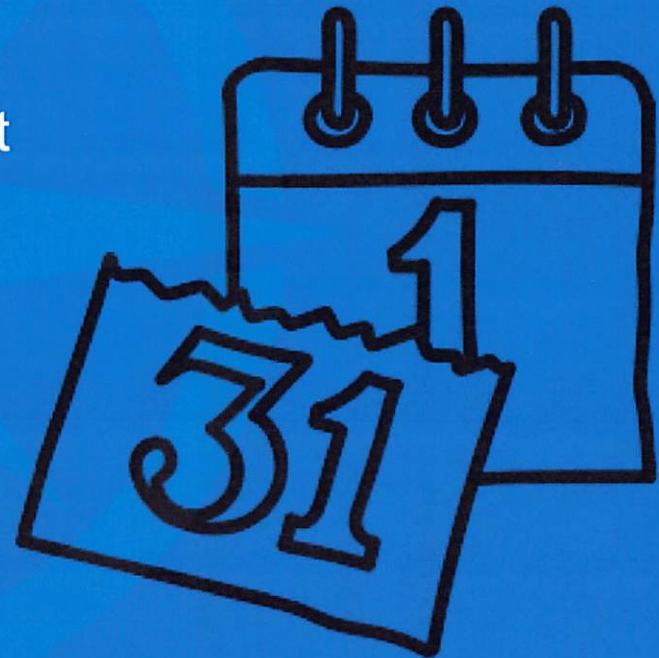
There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

2023-24 Calendar Update

- PPC & CPPC voted to allow the use of Professional Development days as student make up days. *Pending Board Approval*
 - February 19th
 - March 15th
 - April 22nd



2023-24 Calendar Update

- Communication from the Commissioner of Education received on Friday evening gives districts the option to use instructional minutes to assist in making up days.
- The current calendar provides a minimum of 2 days (12 hours) of time that would not need to be made up.

2023-24 Calendar Recommendation

Four days currently need to be made up

- Day 1 - Built-in time that exceeds 1068 hours
- Day 2 - Built-In time that exceeds 1068 hours
- Day 3 - March 15th Student Day - June 3rd becomes PD Day
- Day 4 - April 22nd Student Day - June 4th becomes PD (Flex)

2023-24 Calendar Additional Options

- February 19th additional make up day
- Add 5 minutes to the secondary calendar beginning March 25th would add enough time to count as a make up day