

APPROVAL REQUEST FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

November 10, 2015

SUMMARY: This item requests approval of 2016-2017 school calendar.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: None

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The draft for the 2016-2017 calendar was presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on October 27, 2015. The draft was created after consideration of the following priorities from past district calendars, discussions with our PTA presidents and EIC, and as identified in our staff survey:

- professional development at the beginning of the year and in October and January,
- early release days in October for elementary conferences
- a 1 week break in November and March (aligned with UNT, TWU, NCTC, and as many area districts as possible,
- a 2 week break in December,
- the placement of exams before winter break, and
- two semesters that are as balanced as possible in light of the above priorities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

Input was received from parents through our PTA Council and from staff, parents, and community leaders through our EIC. Additionally, a survey was sent to all staff and 824 responses were received. Denton ISD hosted a meeting with area school district leaders to affirm commitments to matching spring breaks with each other and our local universities.

While HB2610 now requires the school year includes 75,600 minutes instead of 180 days, it is still unclear how TEA will calculate credit for waivers that already have been approved through 2016-2017 (professional development and early release) and that may be requested next spring (inclement weather). If TEA continues to grant these waivers, HB 2610 may offer the district increased flexibility with the calendar in future school years. If TEA does not honor its existing waivers or grant new weather waivers, our district may need to reevaluate the calendar to meet the minimum requirements. Based upon all of the information that is known at this time, the draft presented to the trustees on October 27, 2015 is the recommended school calendar for 2016-2017.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None

BENEFIT OF ACTION: Passage will allow staff ample time to plan activities for the 2016-2017 school year.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED: Comment was received through focus group presentations to the Council of PTAs and the District EIC as well as through the survey sent to all district staff.

ALTERNATIVES: No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the approval of the 2016-2017 school calendar.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE: David Hicks, Area Superintendent, Academic Programs

ATTACHMENT: 2016-2017 Draft School Calendar

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____
Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____
Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____
Comments: _____