



Geneva Community Unit School District 304

Office of Learning & Teaching

TO: Dr. Mutchler, Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Andy Barrett
RE: 2019-2020 Calendar
DATE: February 11, 2019

Background

For the last several months Geneva 304's Calendar Committee has been collaborating regarding a variety of potential calendar concepts that could be considered for our district both next year and in the years ahead. The committee explored numerous concepts and developed drafts in a process which culminated in the development of four unique draft concepts. These concepts were presented at a School Board meeting in November 2018. At that time the committee gathered feedback from faculty and had further discussions that ultimately culminated in the development of two formal calendar drafts for the 2019-2020 school year. Draft Calendar A would maintain the traditional pattern we have followed for the last several years, while Draft Calendar C would, among other things, move the start of school up one week. I presented information regarding these two potential calendars to the Board of Education at the public meeting on January 14th. After that presentation we reached out formally to both parents and staff to gather feedback regarding these two draft calendar options.

Survey Results

We collected data from roughly 2,000 survey responses from both staff and parents regarding the two calendar drafts. In sum, approximately 74% of respondents expressed support for the more traditional calendar, Draft Calendar A. In general, support for the traditional calendar was based on three factors: historical consistency, quality of the weather in May vs. August, and the importance and value of family time in August. In addition, many respondents expressed support for Calendar A for the 19-20 school year given that this school year is already extended into June and because many summer activities are already planned for this upcoming August. Lastly, it is important to note that Geneva 304 will be hosting the Mid-Valley ESY program this summer which would be complicated by an early start.

Recommendation

At this time, we recommend formal approval of Draft Calendar A for the 2019-2020 school year with an understanding that important conversations regarding our academic calendar will continue as we plan for 2020-2021 and beyond.

Conclusion

Much work and deliberation has gone into the calendar development process, and as mentioned at previous Board Meetings, we recognize the importance of exploring a variety of options and working collaboratively toward the best solutions for students. We are grateful to our staff and community for their support throughout this process, as well as for the insights that were shared. We are confident that the insights and questions that have arisen during this process will be helpful as the Calendar Committee continues its work in the months and years ahead.

