

Summary of Calendar Committee Meeting - December 13, 2023:

1. **Handling Holidays:**

- Most groups prefer not to have extended weekends or extra days before Christmas.
- January 2nd and Easter Monday are appreciated.
- Extended weekends are preferable to spring break.
- Custodians do not want a spring break, while paras like it others were split as well.
- Avoid going into June if possible. (N/A)
- Longer breaks in the 3rd trimester were suggested.

2. **Staff Development Days:**

- Consider late starts on Wednesdays instead of early releases. (N/A)
- Middle school prefers full days but acknowledges feasibility challenges.
- Schedule staff development on Mondays and Fridays.
- Students prefer midweek late starts for activities. (N/A)
- Keep staff development days spaced out and consider Monday and Friday breaks.

3. **Professional Development:**

- Little to no new input received. (N/A)

4. **Balancing Vacation Periods:**

- Middle school staff brought up time off on conference days for all-day conferences. (still needs to be determined)
- Keep elementary student days off together and align middle and high school calendars.
- Create separate main calendars for each building.

5. **Stakeholder Feedback:**

- Consider an interactive calendar-there are calendars on each home page, including the District. (Located on website and will be communicated by buildings)
- Move graduation later and closer to the end of the year to help with seniors work time and also 11, 10, 9 learning opportunities in class time. (Last full week of school)

6. **Academic and Extracurricular Events:**

- No new input received. (N/A)

7. **Alignment with Other Districts:**

- Align with Monticello or close surrounding districts if possible. (March 21 SD aligned with Monticello and possibly Big Lake)
- Prioritize aligning elementary and secondary calendars within the district.

8. **Alternative Learning Days:**

- Make the first two snow days off (this conflicts with a contractual obligation).
- Include a built-in snow day on April 21 since Easter is later this year.

9. **Balance between Academic Rigor and Well-being:**

- No new input received.

10. **Spring Break:**

- Already discussed; general preference against spring break.

Additional Thoughts:

- Create two long weekends in the spring with a Friday and following Monday off. (Every month has at least one 3 day weekend, many have 4 for families and some months have 2 long weekends)
- Consider making March 7 and 6 days off for students.
- Propose taking off January 2 and 3. (Conflicts with getting out early this year)

The committee suggests incorporating specific dates such as January 2nd and Easter Monday, avoiding extended weekends before Christmas, and considering an interactive calendar. They also propose aligning with surrounding districts, creating breaks in the 3rd trimester, and incorporating additional long weekends in the spring. The feedback on spring break is mixed, with preferences against it, except for paras who like it. The committee emphasizes the importance of balancing academic rigor and well-being while considering stakeholder preferences and logistical constraints.

