

School Operations Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:15 PM

Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Meeting Minutes Review**
3. **Second Calendar Survey Results**
4. **Committee Recommendation**
5. **Adjourn**



Minutes of School Operations Committee Meeting Minnesota State Academies Board

A School Operations Committee Meeting of the Minnesota State Academies Board was held Friday, January 10, 2025, beginning at 3:15 PM in the Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021.

Present: Superintendent Terry Wilding, Annette Freiheit, Bridget Flier, Oluwagbenga Ogungbe.

Ex-Officio Present: Gloria Nathanson, Harry Weber, Sarah Allen, Nichelle Steffen.

Absent: Jody Olson, Hernan Moncada, John Davis, Ryan Johnson, Brittany Thomforde.

1. Call to Order

Chair Freiheit called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

2. Meeting Minutes Review

No comments.

3. Calendar Survey Results

73 people responded to this year's survey, which was a good number compared to past years. It appears most of the staff are okay with having half-days throughout the year. Opinions varied regarding Thanksgiving break (whether it should be a week-long break or a few days). There were several individuals interested in having long weekends scattered throughout the year. Supt. Wilding then asked the group to share feedback.

Gloria Nathanson shared that the teachers were interested in having additional work days to focus on progress reports and grading. Supt. Wilding explained that adding more days to the calendar would impact the budget, but there is a possibility that some days could be shuffled to either the beginning or the end of the year, such as during Thanksgiving week.

Harry Weber shared that the teachers prefer 2 week-long ESY, not 3 weeks, as reflected in a few open-ended responses in the survey. Superintendent Wilding explained that this has been discussed in the past, and the final decision was made by the Board to make the three-week length permanent. Oluwagbenga Ogungbe reminded the group to keep the students' needs first and foremost, which is the reasoning behind maintaining the three-week ESY schedule.

Superintendent Wilding then asked the group to help define what half day should look like. Harry suggested that students go home at noon, and the teachers work for the rest of the day to focus on paperwork and grading. This was supported by Gloria.

Chair Freiheit asked if we had flexibility in student contact hours. Supt. Wilding said this would depend on how many half-days are needed, which could mean that the school year would have to be stretched. We already have early release on Fridays at 2 pm, which cuts into the number of contact hours.

Harry suggested putting the half days immediately before breaks, such as Thanksgiving and semester breaks. Sarah suggested using those dates for paraprofessional training.

Supt. Wilding then asked about long weekends. From the survey responses, it seems spring would be ideal. Would two more breaks be good, if so, when should we have them?

Sarah Allen reminded the group that spring time is also during testing, and balloon payments are challenging for our staff. Gloria recommended considering the spring break dates, which would help with "breaking up" the long semester. Supt. Wilding stated that we usually follow the Faribault and Owatonna public school calendars, since many of our staff have children in the schools and our students take mainstream classes there. One of the survey responses asked that our calendar align with that of Metro Deaf School. However, this does not work well for our students who attend local public schools for classes.

4. Discuss 2025-2026 Calendar

The group agreed that two calendar options would be distributed to staff and families. Supt. Wilding will send this out, and bring this back to the next meeting.

5. Adjourn

Chair Freiheit adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.

2025-2026 School Year Calendar

2nd Survey Results

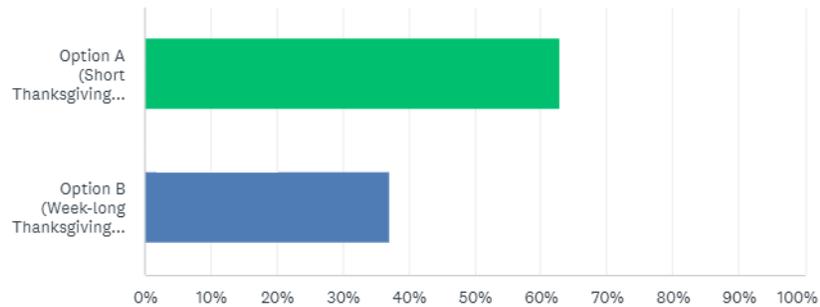
135 respondents

Option A - Short Thanksgiving Break: 85 (62.96%)

Option B – Week-long Thanksgiving Break: 50 (37.04%)

Please choose your preferred option

Answered: 135 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Option A (Short Thanksgiving Break)	62.96% 85
Option B (Week-long Thanksgiving Break)	37.04% 50
TOTAL	135

Draft A: Important Dates -

- July 14-31: Summer School
- August 10: MSAD FB/VB camps begin
- August 19-22: Staff Workdays
- August 24: Student Check-In Day/Dorms Open
- August 25: First day of school/1st semester
- September 1: No School - Labor Day
- October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day
- October 15: Noon Dismissal/Family-Teacher Conf.
- October 16-17: No School - October Break
- November 11: Veterans Day - School in Session
- November 26: Noon Dismissal/Teacher Work Day
- November 27-28: No School - November Break
- Dec.22-Jan.2: No School - Winter Break
- January 15: Last day of 1st semester
- January 15: Noon Dismissal - Staff Work Day/PD
- January 16: No School - Staff Work Day/PD
- January 19: No School - MLK Jr. Holiday
- January 20: First day of 2nd semester
- February 16: No School - Presidents Day Holiday
- Mar.30-Apr.3: No School - Spring Break
- May 25: No School - Memorial Day
- May 28: Last day of school/2nd semester
- May 28: MSAB/MSAD Graduations
- May 29: Teacher Work Day

Draft B: Important Dates –

- July 14-31: Summer School
- August 10: MSAD FB/VB camps begin
- August 19-22: Staff Workdays
- August 25: Student Check-In Day/Dorms Open
- August 26: First day of school/1st semester
- September 1: No School - Labor Day
- October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day
- October 15: Noon Dismissal/Family-Teacher Conf.
- October 16-17: No School - October Break
- November 11: Veterans Day - School in Session
- November 24-28: No School - November Break
- Dec.22-Jan.2: No School - Winter Break
- January 15: Last day of 1st semester
- January 15: Noon Dismissal - Staff Work Day/PD
- January 16: No School - Staff Work Day/PD
- January 19: No School - MLK Jr. Holiday
- January 20: First day of 2nd semester

- February 16: No School - Presidents Day Holiday
- Mar.30-Apr.3: No School - Spring Break
- May 25: No School - Memorial Day
- June 4: Last day of school/2nd semester
- June 4: MSAB/MSAD Graduations
- June 5: Teacher Work Day

