

ER9 Calendar Committee
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
Boards of Education Office, 654 Morehouse Road, Easton, CT

Attendance: Mike D'Agostino, Vance Hancock, Cindy Shortt, and Sara Sobel
Administration: Tom McMorran and Stephanie Pierson Ugol
Other Central Office Staff: Vicki Cram
Teacher Association Representatives: Chris Angell (JBEA); Melissa Null and Meg Rooney (REA)
Public: None.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 Joint Easton, Redding and Region 9 Board of Education Calendar Committee meeting minutes as submitted. D'Agostino, Shortt. Approved. 1 yes; 1 abstention. (Mrs. Sobel had not arrived at this point in the meeting.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2017-2018 AND 2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDARS
Mrs. Cram explained that the Redding Board of Education had recently voted to become a member of CES rather than EdAdvance (formerly Education Connection) thereby making all three districts members of the same RESC. This is pending approval of CES but is expected to be effective July 1, 2017. Uniform Regional Calendars for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 were developed by area RESCs in accordance with the CT Public Act No. 14-38. The committee reviewed the calendars provided by CES. A district has five flexible days for individual district needs to use instead of those identified on the RESC calendar.

Mrs. Cram also reminded the committee that each school district has a different number of teacher contractual days which impact the school calendars: Easton Education Association – 186 (students have 181 days of school); Redding Education Association – 185 (students have 180 days of school); and Joel Barlow Education Association – 183 (students have 180 days of school).

Placement of contractual professional development days was discussed. In particular, there was discussion of moving the last PD day of the year for the K-8 schools to Election Day. Melissa Null stated that REA members would like to see the PD front loaded at the beginning of the year before school starts for students. Teachers feel they need more time to set up their classrooms. Dr. Pierson Ugol explained that PD days are not for classroom set up/or take down. Additional days to set up the classroom should be negotiated. There was further discussion of the benefit of Election Day being a PD day – it allows teachers to participate in PD offered by area RESCs; SSES is a polling place, etc.

2017-2018 School Calendar:

Flex days recommended for 2017-2018 for Easton and Redding K-8 schools:

- 1) School starts for students on Wednesday, August 30, 2017.
- 2) Friday, October 6, 2017 - No school for students. Professional development day for staff.

- 3) Monday, October 9, 2017, Columbus Day - All bargaining unit agreements include Columbus Day as a paid holiday for full-year staff. If school were to be in session on Columbus Day, those employees would have to be offered a paid floating holiday.
- 4) Friday, January 19, 2018 - No school for students. Professional development day for staff.

Note: Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Election Day, will be a professional development day for staff – agrees with the RESC calendar. School will not be in session for students.

Flex days recommended for 2017-2018 for Joel Barlow High School (Region 9):

- 1) School starts for students on Wednesday, August 30, 2017.
- 2) Monday, October 9, 2017, Columbus Day - All bargaining unit agreements include Columbus Day as a paid holiday for full-year staff. If school were to be in session on Columbus Day, those employees would have to be offered a paid floating holiday.
- 3) Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Election Day – School will be in session.
- 4) Friday, January 19, 2018 - No school for students. Intersession day for staff.

2018-2019 School Calendar:

The CES calendar shows the start date for students to be Wednesday, August 29, 2018. Therefore, a flex day is not needed.

Flex days recommended for 2018-2019 for Easton and Redding K-8 schools:

- 1) Friday, October 5, 2018 - No school for students. Professional development day for staff.
- 2) Monday, October 8, 2018 Columbus Day - All bargaining unit agreements include Columbus Day as a paid holiday for full-year staff. If school were to be in session on Columbus Day, those employees would have to be offered a paid floating holiday.
- 3) Tuesday, January 22, 2019 - No school for students. Professional development day for staff. (It is important to note that Board members wanted the K-8 schools to have their PD on the same day that Joel Barlow has its intersession day. In this year, the day falls on Tuesday following the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.)

Note: Tuesday, November 6, 2018, Election Day, will be a professional development day for staff – agrees with the RESC calendar. School will not be in session for students.

Flex days recommended for 2018-2019 for Joel Barlow High School (Region 9):

- 1) Monday, October 8, 2018, Columbus Day - All bargaining unit agreements include Columbus Day as a paid holiday for full-year staff. If school were to be in session on Columbus Day, those employees would have to be offered a paid floating holiday.
- 2) Tuesday, November 6, 2018, Election Day – School will be in session.
- 3) Tuesday, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 - No school for students. Intersession day for staff.

There was discussion about making the Easton/Redding January professional development day the same day as Barlow's intersession day. It is understood that Barlow's intersession day is dependent upon snow days. If many snow days occur prior to mid-January, the intersession day is moved to be ~the day following the 90th student day. Easton/Redding January professional development day would not be changed if this should happen.

Each district has additional early dismissal days for professional development. Easton and Redding will be reduced to four starting in 2017-2018. Joel Barlow early dismissal/late arrival days have traditionally been eight days and include the required day for administering PSATs. The days are not set until Barlow's professional development committee convenes. The Barlow teacher's union contract does not have built-in, full professional development days like Easton and Redding's do.

Mrs. Sobel asked that early dismissal days for professional development not be scheduled in the beginning months of school. She also asked that the early dismissal days for parent/teacher conferences be the same for RES and JRMS.

Calendars for all three districts for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 will be prepared and presented to the three Boards of Education at their joint meeting on January 24, 2017 for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Move that the meeting be adjourned: Sobel, Shortt. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by:

Vicki Cram