

ER9 Calendar Committee
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Boards of Education Office, 654 Morehouse Road, Easton, CT

Attendance: Mike D'Agostino and Dan Underberger
Absent: Sara Sobel
Administration: Tom McMorran and Stephanie Pierson Ugol
Other Central Office Staff: Mary Burritt and Vicki Cram
Other: One member of the public

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 a.m.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2013 minutes as submitted. D'Agostino, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Uniform Regional Calendars for 2016-2017 were developed by the area RESCs in accordance with the CT Public Act No. 14-38. Easton and Region 9 School Districts are members of CES; Redding is a member of Education Connection. The two RESC calendars (attached to the minutes) were reviewed with the understanding that:

- a) A district may delay implementation of the uniform regional school calendar until the school-year commencing July 1, 2017 if such board of education has an existing employee contract that makes implementation of the uniform regional school calendar impossible.
- b) A district has five flexible days for individual district needs

Some contractual issues were cited:

- a) 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.
- b) Election Day - The Joel Barlow Education Association works 183 contractual days which include 180 student days, the day before students return to school, a January intersession day, and the day after school ends for students. Adding Election Day as a professional development day would be a contractual issue with the JBEA.

In Easton and Redding, the teacher associations have five professional development days which in the past have included: two days before school starts for students; one day in October; one day in January; and the day after school ends for students. Would moving the October day to Election Day make sense?

Vicki Cram reminded everyone that the placement of professional development days on the calendar needs to include a discussion with the teacher associations. The union leaders are scheduled to meet with the superintendent in November, and this will be an agenda item.

The month of October 2016 is broken up by the two Jewish holidays (Monday, October 3 and Wednesday, October 12) and Columbus Day (Monday, October 10). There was much discussion of placement of the professional development day in Easton and Redding being: a) the traditional Friday before Columbus Day or (b) on Election Day or (c) possible Tuesday, October 11. It was decided this would be discussed with the teacher associations and then brought to the Boards of Education.

Best option may be to follow the CES calendar with the following changes:

1. Professional development day Tuesday, August 30
2. School starts on Wednesday, August 31
3. Continue to recognize Columbus Day as a holiday
4. Election Day – Continue to have school in session/October PD instead for Easton/Redding and avoid contract issue with JBEA for Region 9?
5. February break to be Tuesday, February 21 (day after Presidents Day)
6. Add professional development day in January for all three districts

Regional calendars for subsequent years have not been released by any RESC at this time.

Plan is to hold discussions at individual Board meetings in November/December and present a calendar for approval at the January joint meeting of the Easton, Redding and Region 9 Boards of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Parkin, Redding: Questioned if the Calendar Committee is a special committee or a standing committee and how the members are appointed. He also questioned if the state would treat Easton, Redding and Region 9 School Districts differently since two of the districts are with one RESC and the third one is with a different RESC. This arrangement is unique to the state and perhaps there could be an exception as to which regional calendar to follow. He also commented that having school in session on Tuesday, October 11th (in between Columbus Day and a Jewish Holiday) would make instruction difficult. He also questioned the logic of running buses on a particular day for just one school.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn: Move that the meeting be adjourned: Underberger, D'Agostino.
Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by:

Vicki Cram