

ER9 Calendar Committee
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Boards of Education Office, 654 Morehouse Road, Easton, CT

Attendance: Mike D'Agostino, Sara Sobel, and Dan Underberger
Administration: Stephanie Pierson Ugol
Other Central Office Staff: Mary Burritt and Vicki Cram

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

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 minutes as submitted. Underberger, D'Agostino. Approved. 2-0-1 abstained. Sara Sobel abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Discussion continued on the 2016-2017 school calendar. Feedback was given from administrators and teacher union leadership. Easton and Redding teacher unions both asked that the Boards consider starting school for students on Thursday, September 1, 2016 rather than Wednesday, August 31, 2016. They then suggested having their three professional development days occur on Monday-Wednesday of that week and eliminate having the professional development day that has occurred in June. All Board members present at the meeting recommended staying with the Wednesday start date. The JBEA suggested adding language on the calendar that we would be adapting our calendars to agree as much as possible with the regional calendars in accordance with CT Public Act No. 14-38.

Recommendations to bring forward to the three Boards of Education at their joint meeting in January 2016 will be as follows:

1. School starts on Wednesday, August 31
2. Continue to recognize Columbus Day as a holiday
3. Easton and Redding – Hold staff professional development day on Tuesday, October 11 rather than the traditional Friday before Columbus Day
4. Election Day – Continue to have school in session – although it may be a minimum day for most schools for PD or parent/teacher conferences
5. Retain professional development day in January for Easton and Redding and the intersession day for Region 9.
6. February break – following the regional calendars, February break will be reduced to one day rather than two. Recommendation is to have no school on Tuesday, February 21 (day after Presidents Day) and to have an early dismissal the Friday before Presidents Day as a transition to the regional calendar. The Friday before Presidents Day will be a full day for staff with professional development in the afternoon.

Stephanie Pierson Ugol stated that early-dismissal for professional development is being reduced from six to five days for Easton and Redding. Three days will be for K-12 work and the other two will be building based. Region 9 will have 8 early dismissal days for professional development and one late arrival due to administration of PSATs.

Sara Sobel asked that no early dismissals be scheduled for September and June. She also asked that RES and JRMS align their parent/teacher conferences so that they occur in the same week in November.

The order of days to be used to make up for school closings due to inclement weather was discussed and the recommended order is:

- End of school year up to and including June 23, 2017
- February 21, 2017
- June 26-30, 2017
- April 10-13, 2017

The 2016-2017 recommend calendars will be presented at the joint meeting of the three Boards of Education for their approval in January 2016. The calendar committee will reconvene later in the spring when the regional calendars are released for 2017-2018 with hopes to have that year's school calendar approved at the May 2016 joint meeting of the Boards of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None. No member of the public was present.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Submitted by:

Vicki Cram