

MDSO Calendar Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

In attendance: Susan Buescher, Tim Thomas, Bill Borg, Karen Olsen, Ryan Aronson, Suzanne Gebhards, Heidi Galyard, Virginia Herbst, Sunny Matteson
Absent: Laurie Erektion, Becky Dwello

1. Introductions were made.
2. The meeting objective was to prepare a calendar to go to the December or January Board meeting. Policy states that the calendar will be adopted prior to February 1 of each year.
3. The McCall-Donnelly School District Calendar Committee Guidelines were reviewed. Changes will be made after the 2017-2018 calendar is finalized and adopted by the Board.
4. Calendar Discussion:
Tim Thomas suggested that school start later in August. Many community business owners have contacted him regarding a later start. Tim also proposed reducing the number of teacher work days in the calendar. Susan Buescher said that the days are part of the teacher's work guidelines and included in policy and previously in the Master Contract. Tim also suggested that the number of work days for teachers/staff be reduced.

Sunny Matteson said that many parents like having the whole week of Thanksgiving off.

Heidi Galyardt discussed one event for Barbara Morgan Elementary School instead of several beginning of the year events: Meet and Greet, Back to School Night, etc. She also brought up the possibility of year-round school. She said that several parents from the Forest Service were in favor of it. Tim Thomas discussed the implications for high school athletics. Susan Buescher said that the West Ada District had some schools on a year-round schedule; however, many moved away from the model due to conflicting schedules within families. Virginia Herbst said her sister taught in a year-round model, and the school was moving away from it. Heidi asked if she should research the year-round model and bring information to the next meeting. The committee agreed that she should since it could be considered for future calendars.

Ryan Aronson said BRMES staff wanted to start after Labor Day since August was too hot. Staff didn't care if they worked the week of Thanksgiving. He also asked about a different calendar for

schools. Susan Buescher said that the middle school flexed the April Parent-Conference day to do conferences in May.

Suzanne Gebhards said that the middle school saw an absolute need for conferences in the spring and fall. Some staff loved having Thanksgiving week off.

Virginia Herbst said the Donnelly wanted the work day the day after Halloween. They liked the whole week of Thanksgiving off. They saw the need for days in school prior to testing.

Bill Borg and Karen Olsen said the high school saw a need to a later start due to the importance of summer jobs for students and staff and businesses in the community. They were not in favor of a whole week off at Thanksgiving.

Susan Buescher had previously developed a calendar with a later start date. She said the calendar had been developed after input from Jim Foudy who suggested starting later and ending at the same time. The calendar had been shared with the group. The newly proposed calendar was reviewed and revised. One consideration for the newly proposed calendar was to eliminate the calendar's built-in snow day. This proposal required a policy change. Susan said she would take a proposal to the Policy Committee to remove the requirements. She also said she would send out a tentative calendar to committee members in the next few days for their input.

Changes include:

- Start date of August 30 instead of August 22.
- No Professional Development Day on October 6
- Professional Development day with the Work Day the end of Grading Period 1
- Students and staff attend school on November 20 and 21 with an early release day on November 22
- Early release on December 22 instead of a full day off
- No Professional Development Day on February 16
- Elimination of snow day in calendar – May 25

The next Calendar Committee meeting will be scheduled in January or February depending on when the Board adopts the 2017-2018 calendar.

Susan Buescher said she would send out a revised calendar for feedback.