

Pullman Public Schools
Calendar Committee
February 24, 2020 – Meeting Notes

Attendance:

- Joe Thornton, Facilitator
- Stephanie Horn, PEA Representative
- Amanda Ingram, PEA Representative
- Tammy Storey, Paraprofessional Representative
- Megan Brannan, Paraprofessional Representative
- Jim Bruce, Elementary Principal
- Juston Pollestad, PHS Principal
- Cameron Grow, LMS Principal
- Lisa Jones, Elementary Parent Representative
- Ben Cowan, Middle School Parent Representative
- Angela Lenssen, High School Parent Representative
- Shannon Focht, Communications Coordinator
- Roberta Kramer, Assistant Superintendent
- Bob Maxwell, Superintendent

Absent:

- Leslie Stamper, At Large Parent Representative

Joe Thornton gave a presentation of background information and the committee task.

Background Information:

- **Pullman School District Board Policy 2220: School Calendar**
- The Pullman School District Board of Directors, in order to permit staff, students and parents to make plans for their own work and vacation schedules, shall maintain biennial school calendars. The calendar for the second year of the biennium will be submitted and approved by the board on or before June 1 of each year. The start date for each school year shall be the **last Wednesday in August.**

Collective Bargaining Agreements

Pullman Education Association (PEA) Language:

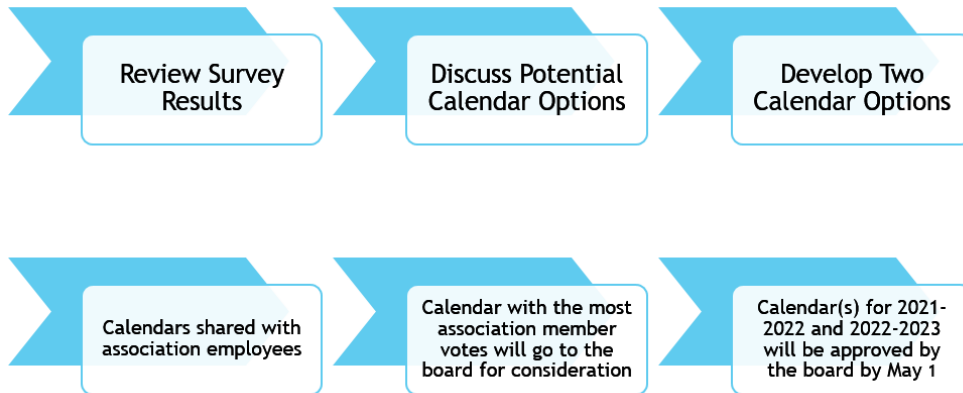
Section 14: Calendar

- A. Calendar(s) for subsequent years will be determined by a school calendar committee comprised of District employee groups, administrators, and parents.
- B. The school calendar committee will include two (2) PEA members and the PEA Vice President.
- C. The calendar committee will create and implement a staff/community calendar survey.
- D. The school calendar committee will analyze the results of the survey and create two calendars for consideration by the association employees.
- E. The association/committee will present the calendar with the most District employee votes to the board for consideration.
- F. Calendar(s) for subsequent years will be determined by the parties on or before May 1.

Pullman School District Paraprofessionals Association (PPA)

- Section 5: Work Year Calendar The current calendar is contained in Appendix C. Calendars for subsequent years will be determined by the parties on or before May 1.

Process



Work of the Committee:

- Analyze the results of the calendar survey
- Create two calendars for consideration by association employees

Goal of the Committee:

- Produce two calendar options for each school year (2021-2022 and 2022-2023)
- Committee Input:
 - Winter break
 - Thanksgiving break
 - Snow make up days
 - Spring break
 - District spring break is typically the first full week of April
 - WSU spring break in 2022 is March 14-18
 - WSU spring break in 2023 is March 13-17
- District Decisions:
 - Conference Week
 - Collaboration Days
 - LID Days – 7 total (3 are state funded, 4 are district funded)
 - Committee can provide feedback, district will make final decision

Upcoming Meetings:

- March 2, 4-5pm
 - PHS Community Board Room
- March 16, 4-5pm
 - PHS Community Board Room

The committee broke into groups to review the extensive survey data received from staff, families, and students. 624 individuals participated in the survey.

Themes and ideas, based on survey data:

- Align breaks with WSU
 - Pros: childcare, family time, vacations, running start students would get a spring break
 - Cons: Teachers and students have a long time between an early spring break and the end of the school year
- Full week off at thanksgiving
- Suggestion for a mid-winter break with alternate snow day makeup
- Keep 2.5-day conference week
- Possibly have spring conference week during WSU spring break as a compromise? – note that this only impact elementary school families, and WSU families might miss conferences or request on same day
- Build snow days in during the school year (after snow season) not end of school year
- Many comments on survey about starting the school year too late and going too late into June
- Note: try to have a winter break that includes three weekends
- Combine LID days with a three-day weekend to make a four-day weekend
- Collab days on Friday afternoons would pose a staff attendance challenge
- Consider having LID days during Thanksgiving break, etc.

Questions:

- Can breaks feasibly align with WSU?
- Compare results of 2020 survey to 2018 survey
- What is the attendance impact during WSU's spring break?
- What is the attendance impact during other breaks – i.e. year we had a shorter Thanksgiving break
- What do the calendars for local and league districts look like?
- Do other college towns have aligned university/school district calendars?
- What is the calendar like for WSU winter break?

Important Communication Notes:

- 180 days are required by state law
- Longer or more school breaks means we go later into June