

DATE: June 9, 2020

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Lorne Parker, Assistant Superintendent, Infrastructure

RESOURCE STAFF: Vicki de Haan, Bob Morter

REFERENCE: [GCA.BP](#) – Approval of the School Year Calendar
[GCA.AR](#) – The School Year Calendar

ISSUE

At the May 26, 2020, Board meeting, the Board of Trustees referred the proposed school year calendar back to Administration with direction to draft a second option containing a full week of no instruction for students in the week of May that includes Victoria Day.

BACKGROUND

The School Year Calendar is designed with a number of considerations, many of which are included in Administrative Regulation GCA.AR – The School Year Calendar. This regulation includes requirements such as the stipulation that winter recess be two weeks long and include December 24 and January 2 and that spring recess take place at a prescribed time.

Other considerations for the calendar include Diploma Exam dates, Provincial Achievement Test dates and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exam dates. Additionally, the calendar is designed to balance the length of first and second semesters and to align with the terms and conditions of the pilot program on the school year calendar within the Alberta Teachers' Association collective agreement.

At the February 25, 2020, Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to revise the previously approved 2020-21 school year calendar from 183 to 178 instructional days, increase the number of professional development days and create greater clustering of days in which students are not in school. This is in alignment with the feedback received from parents in an open access opinion poll conducted in the winter of 2020. These decisions are retained in the draft 2021-22 calendar design.

The decision to revise the calendar was made to reduce operational costs for the Division and to achieve a number of identified non-financial opportunities. Recognizing that this revision to the calendar has implications to the community the Division serves, Trustees requested that further feedback be solicited from students, parents and staff after the new calendar has been implemented to understand the impact of this change on stakeholders. Further information regarding the collection of feedback is outlined in the Next Steps section of this report.

Two proposed versions of the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar are attached as Attachment I and II.

RELATED FACTS

Key points of the two draft 2021-22 School Year Calendars include:

- A start date for students of Thursday, September 2, 2021, prior to the Labour Day long weekend
- An end date for students of Tuesday, June 28, 2022, aligning with the draft Alberta Education Diploma Exam schedule
- Balanced first and second semesters
- A November break of four days for students composed of Remembrance Day, one day in lieu for reporting, one Board approved non-instructional day and one professional development day
- Eight professional development days
- A clustering of days when students are not in school, the preferred approach indicated by family and staff in the open-access opinion poll administered from January 31 to February 10, 2020
 - Additionally, the calendar provides for regular breaks in support of student and staff health and well-being, which was one of the top three factors identified by both families and staff as the contributing factor to their selection

In addition, to determine the impact of the revised 2020-21 school year calendar on the various stakeholders, including families, students, staff and community, a plan has been developed to measure the degree to which the revised calendar achieves the intended outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

That Attachment I - 2021-22 Division Calendar be approved.

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve Attachment I – 2021-22 Division Calendar.
2. Approve Attachment II – 2021-22 Division Calendar.
3. Refer the proposed 2021-22 Division Calendar back to Administration with feedback to inform a revised calendar that would be brought back to a future Board meeting.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

The proposed calendars maintain the 178 instructional days present in the 2020-21 school year calendar. Building the calendars around the same number of days results in a greater consistency of school hours of operation from year to year, allowing schools for the most part to retain existing timetables for students and staff. This in turn assists parents with creating consistency of drop off and pick up times. Finally, efficiency is created in Student Transportation with routing and timing of buses.

Analysis of the two draft 2021-22 School Year Calendars include:

- Identical structure to the first semester, September to January;
- The proposed calendars vary on the structure of the second semester, February to June;
 - Attachment I, presented initially on May 26, 2020, is comprised of a May break from Friday, May 20 to Wednesday, May 25, with PD days on February 22 and May 2;
 - Attachment II, presented for the first time on June 9, is comprised of a May break from Monday, May 23 to Friday May 27, with PD days on May 2 and May 27.



- Attachment II provides for a full week for students to be out of class, while staff would have a PD Day on May 27.

NEXT STEPS

Following the approval of the calendar it will be published on the Division website.

Additionally, in the 2020-21 school year, Administration will begin the evaluation of the revised 2020-21 school year calendar. The evaluation plan will span over two years to allow for a midpoint assessment in April of 2021, and a final report to be provided for April of 2022 summarizing the impact of the calendar over a full year of implementation and part of a second year.

The plan intends to measure the degree to which the revised calendar achieves the following outcomes:

1. Reduce operational costs for the Division
2. Enhance the following non-financial opportunities:
 - Positive impact on student wellness
 - Positive impact on staff wellness
 - Increased access to Professional Development
 - Increased staff collaboration opportunities
 - The opportunity for co-sponsored events with community partners during the non-school days

In addition, as this modification to the calendar has implications to the community the Division serves, questions about the calendar will be added to the Division's annual Feedback Survey in March of 2021 and again in March of 2022. Feedback from the following stakeholders will be collected:

- Parents
- Students
- Staff
- Community Partners

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Draft 2021-22 School Year Calendar

ATTACHMENT II Draft 2021-22 School Year Calendar

APPENDIX I May 26, 2020 Board Report – 2021-22 School Year Calendar

BM:cp

2021–22 Division Calendar *DRAFT*

epsb.ca

AUGUST • 2021

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SEPTEMBER • 2021

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OCTOBER • 2021

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MAY • 2022

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APPROVED HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	September 6
Thanksgiving	October 11
Remembrance Day	November 11
Winter Break	December 20–31
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26
New Year's Day	January 1
Family Day	February 21
Teachers' Convention	March 3–4
Spring Break	March 28–April 1
Good Friday	April 15
Easter Monday	April 18
Victoria Day	May 23

First Operational Day (No Students)	August 31
First Day of Classes	September 2
Last Day of Classes	June 28
Last Operational Day	June 29

LEGEND

	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	PD DAY (NO STUDENTS)
	FIRST/LAST DAY OF CLASSES
	OPERATIONAL DAY (NO STUDENTS)
	TEACHERS' CONVENTION
	TEACHERS' DAY IN LIEU (NO TEACHERS OR STUDENTS)
	BOARD APPROVED NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (NO TEACHERS OR STUDENTS)
	WINTER/SPRING BREAK



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021–22 Division Calendar *DRAFT*

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 	WINTER/SPRING BREAK