

DATE: March 23, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Revised 2021–22 School Year Calendar

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Vicki de Haan, Terry Korte, Bob Morter

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

ISSUE

An amendment to the 2021-22 School Year Calendar, which was approved at the May 26, 2020 Board meeting, is being requested to accommodate the municipal election, parent choice and to better balance semesters and quarters.

BACKGROUND

The Division calendar for 2021-22 was approved in May of 2020. Since that time, the Division has implemented family choice for students to select learning online or in-person, and high schools have adjusted to scheduling in both a quarter and semester-based system. The proposed changes to the calendar will facilitate both the processes involved in transitioning students between online learning and in-person learning and provide greater balance between quarter three and quarter four for high school programming.

RELATED FACTS

Proposed changes represented in the draft revised 2021-22 School Year Calendar include:

- October 21 and 22 - Move the PD days to October 18 and 19. This will result in the municipal election occurring on a non-instructional day, reducing contact between the school community and voting public as many schools are scheduled to be polling stations
- February 4, 2022 - Move the PD day to January 31, 2022
 - Allows for semester one and two transition
- February 22, 2022 - Move the PD day to April 19, 2022
 - Lengthens Easter weekend for families and provides better balance between quarter three and quarter four

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the attached revised 2021-22 Division Calendar be approved.
2. That presentation and approval of the 2022-23 Division Calendar be delayed until the fall of 2021.

OPTIONS

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

1. Approve the attached revised 2021-22 School Year Calendar.
2. Approve the attached revised 2021-22 School Year Calendar with modifications

3. Approve the attached calendar with or without modifications and approve the deferral of the 2022-23 Division calendar until fall 2021
4. Approve the attached calendar with or without modifications and reject the deferral of the 2022-23 Division calendar until fall 2021

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

A request has been received from the City of Edmonton to adjust our professional development days from October 21 and 22 to October 18 and 19. This would result in no classes on the date of the municipal election. During the period of uncertainty that exists relative to the pandemic, it may be in the interest of both parties to not have students in class that day, reducing the risk of incidental contacts between the public and members of the school community.

Two additional changes are recommended in the calendar. The first is to shift a professional development day from February 4 to January 31. This will provide time for Division staff to potentially transition back to in-person learning.

The final change to the calendar is to move the February 22 professional development day to April 19. This will add an instructional day to quarter three and remove one from quarter four, providing better balance between the quarters.

While typically the Division calendar is approved approximately 16 months before the year in question, a delay of the 2022-23 calendar would be prudent. Conversations with Alberta Education suggest that the diploma exam schedules for 2022-23 may see greater revision than normal when updated in August. By delaying the approval of the Division calendar to the fall, it will be possible to incorporate the most up-to-date information in the calendar and avoid the need to once again bring forth revisions to a published calendar. Regardless of any changes to the Diploma exam schedule, timing of the winter recess and spring recess will not be impacted and they will begin on December 20, 2021 and March 28, 2022 respectively. The timing of these recesses is identified in GC.AR - The School Year Calendar.

NEXT STEPS

If Recommendation 1 is approved, the revised 2021-22 Division Calendar will be posted to the Division's website and the change will be shared with staff, students and families through all of the Division's communication channels. If Recommendation 2 is approved, information will be posted on the Division's website to inform the public on when to expect the calendar. Information will also be posted on the dates of the winter and spring recess.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Draft Revised 2021-22 School Year Calendar

BM:cp

2021–22 Division Calendar – DRAFT (March 4, 2021)

epsb.ca

AUGUST • 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER • 2021

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OCTOBER • 2021

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NOVEMBER • 2021

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DECEMBER • 2021

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JANUARY • 2022

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FEBRUARY • 2022

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MARCH • 2022

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APRIL • 2022

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MAY • 2022

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JUNE • 2022

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JULY • 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