

DATE: November 24, 2020

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson

SUBJECT: Amendment to the 2020–21 School Year Calendar

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Bob Morter

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

ISSUE

An amendment to the 2020-21 School Year Calendar which was approved at the February 25, 2020, Board meeting, is being requested to accommodate the transition between learning quarters.

BACKGROUND

When the 2020-21 School Year Calendar was approved in February 2020, Edmonton Public Schools operated primarily on a semester system. Professional development days, particularly the one scheduled for February 1, were scheduled to support an even distribution through the year and transitions between semesters. The transition time supports staff in preparing to teach new classes and prepare for incoming students.

To enhance family choice in its Re-entry Strategy, Edmonton Public Schools shifted from semesters to organizing the school year into four instructional quarters (two-month periods of learning).

On the current 2020-21 School Year Calendar, the November break falls between the end of Quarter 1 and the beginning of Quarter 2 and a professional development day falls between the end of Quarter 2 and the beginning of Quarter 3. However, Quarter 3 ends on Tuesday, April 20 and the professional development day is scheduled for Monday, April 26. Therefore, Administration requests that the professional development day be rescheduled to Wednesday, April 21.

RELATED FACTS

- The 2020-21 School Year Calendar approved in February 2020 has a professional development day schedule for Monday, April 26.
- The quarter system, introduced in September 2020, has Quarter 3 ending on Tuesday, April 20, Quarter 4 beginning on Wednesday, April 21, and a professional development day scheduled for Monday, April 26.
- Changes to any previously approved school year calendar made necessary by information not available at the time the calendar was adopted require Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the professional development day in the 2020-21 School Year Calendar be rescheduled from Monday, April 26 to Wednesday, April 21.

OPTIONS

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

1. Approve the recommendation as proposed.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for approval.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

No changes to instructional time will occur as a result of rescheduling the professional development day.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, the amended 2020-21 School Year 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.

KM:km