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David Thompson, Chairperson

Jackie Young, Director of Education

To: Trustees

From: Jackie Young, Director of Education

Date: February 28, 2017

Topic: School Year Calendar for 2017-2018

Background:

Student achievement and well-being are integral considerations that guide the work of the School Year Calendar committee in their decision making. Committee representatives, on behalf of area school boards, are mindful of the broad reaching impact the placement of the school year calendar can have on its students, parents, staff, volunteers, community agencies, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Regulation 304: School Year Calendar/Professional Activity Days, (amended November 30, 2015) outlines the requirements for preparation and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education. As per Ministry of Education guidelines, all school year calendars must include a minimum of 194 school days, a maximum of seven professional activity days (with 3 dedicated to provincial priorities), and a maximum of ten examinations days for secondary schools.

Once again this year, staff and parents were invited to provide input regarding the calendar composition. In an effort to be responsive to parents and staff, feedback was sought regarding key factors in the calendar composition. Input was collected for the placement of the first P.A. Day prior to the start of the school year and the placement of a Board holiday in relation to March Break and/or the end of the year.

The deadline for submission of modified calendars, to the Ministry, is March 1, 2017. The deadline for submission of regular calendars is May 1, 2017. The regular school year calendar shall provide for a school year that commences on or after September 1 and ends on or before June 30. Boards requesting permission from the Minister to use a modified calendar for schools within their jurisdiction must submit a report that describes the process leading to the decision to use the modified calendar.

Electronic submission of the recommended school year calendar, to the Ministry of Education for approval, must be accompanied by a letter signed by the Director of Education indicating the date the calendar was approved by the Board.

Discussion:

This year, staff and parents were invited to answer two questions related to the calendar composition, via an online survey. The survey questions, response rates and results are summarized as follows:

School Start for Student

1. Which option do you prefer?

OPTION	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY
1	Tuesday, September 5, 2017	Thursday, August 31, 2017
2	Tuesday, September 5, 2017	Friday, September 1, 2017

SURVEY RESPONSES	PERCENT	COUNT
OPTION 1	45.25%	786
OPTION 2	54.75%	951

Board Holiday and Final Day of School

2. Which would you prefer?

OPTION	BOARD HOLIDAY	LAST DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR STUDENTS
1	Friday, March 9, 2018	Friday, June 29, 2018
2	Friday, June 29, 2018	Thursday, June 28, 2018

SURVEY RESPONSES	PERCENT	COUNT
OPTION 1	52.65%	923
OPTION 2	47.35%	830

Staff and parent input collected via the online survey, open from February 7-13, 2017, indicated a preference for the Friday, September 1, 2017 P.A. Day and the Board Holiday on Friday, March 9, 2018. Please note that even though parents and staff were asked to vote on their P.A. Day preference, it only affects staff – as they are expected to attend the P.A. Day.

Further consultation with the three other local boards indicated that their preferences were for the Thursday, August 31, 2017 P.A. Day and for the Board Holiday on Friday, March 9, 2018. It is important to note that transportation is not a factor for the P.A. Day, as the proposed P.A. Days are prior to the school year start.

A final consultation with ETFO and OSSTF Union Leaders (which represent more than 660 members combined), indicated an overwhelming preference for the Thursday, August 31, 2017 P.A. Day. It was further specified that their members are already present in the schools that week preparing for the upcoming school year start. It was clearly communicated that their members expect to have the P.A. Day on the Thursday prior to the Labour Day Weekend - as it has been scheduled in previous years. As well, they fully supported the Board Holiday on Friday, March 9, 2018.

This input has been used to develop the proposed 2017-2018 school year calendar. An image of the full calendar is below:

School Year Calendar 2017 - 2018

Legend ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday Schedule
E - Scheduled Examination Day
P - Professional Activity Day
B - Board Designated Holiday
 Half Day

Version A
 Start: September 5, 2017
 End: June 29, 2018

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week												
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F								
August 2017		1			1	2	3	4		7	8	9	10	11		14	15	16	17	18		21	22	23	24	25		28	29	30	31					P1
September 2017	19							1	B	H	*																									
October 2017	20	1			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13		16	17	18	19	20		23	24	25	26	27		30	31							
November 2017	20	2				1	2	3		6	7	8	9	10		13	14	15	16	17		20	21	22	23	24		27	28	29	30					
December 2017	16							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29		H	H	B	B	B		
January 2018	18			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31										
February 2018	18	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28										
March 2018	15					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30					H				
April 2018	19	1						2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30								
May 2018	22					1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31								
June 2018	20	1						1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29								
July 2018								2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31							
TOTAL	187	7		<p>Note: The 2017-2018 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three (3) days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four (4) extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																																

Recommendation:

That the Near North District School Board receive the report on the School Year Calendar as presented and accept the attached school year calendar as determined through consultation across the four local school boards, online survey and union leaders finalized on Thursday, February 16, 2017.