

OREGON-DAVIS SCHOOL CORPORATION

**Monday, February 6, 2017
School Board Work Session, 6:30 PM**

Susan G. Rowles Board Room, Administration Building, Oregon-Davis School Corporation, 5998 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN 46532

The Board of School Trustees of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation met in Regular Session on Monday evening, February 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Susan G. Rowles Board Room of the Administration Building, pursuant to the rules of the Board.

1.0 Notice to Public

1.01 This is a Work Session for Board Members, there will be no opportunity for public comment.

Attendance: Chris Lawrence, Andrea McIntosh, Annette Ferch, Kurt Hayes, Shirley Budka, Dr. Harman, Julie McLiver, recording secretary, Mr. Pletcher, Mr. Estok, Mr. Briles, Delonda Christobal, Dawn Hayes, Jaime Goetz, Dawn Lawrence, Irene Szakonyi, Lee Nagai, Jessica Krause, and other patrons.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dawn Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence then turned the time over to Dr. Harman.

2.0 Agenda

2.01 Public Work Session on School Calendar and Start/End Times of School Day - Dr. Harman explained a public work session is open to the public but there are no actions taken, it is an open discussion with time for questions from the public on the topics outlined in the agenda. Dr. Harman had a powerpoint presentation that included the information sent out to parents and the three options for the calendar. Option 1 is a mirror image of this school year's calendar. He stated his major concern with this calendar is the two week spring break when many high stakes assessments are scheduled right after the break. He stated he has found no research that says there are any benefits from a two week spring break. In an informal survey of the teachers he found that some did not like it because of the upcoming testing. Others liked it for more personal vacation time. Option 2 starts one week later in August, giving students and parents an extra week after the 4H fair for some down time. There is only one week at spring break. Option 2 also includes a second parent/teacher conference after the third nine weeks, planned e learning days and a 2 day fall break. He emphasized that in October there is a designated day for all sophomores to take the PSAT. This opportunity is missed with a full week out for fall break and a make up day is in November, which just delays returning test results. Also if there is a school cancellation due to weather on that November make up day, these students lose the opportunity for this test. The difference between Option 2 and Option 3 is the Christmas Break. In Option 2 the break starts on a Thursday and students return on a Thursday. In Option 3 the break starts later, Dec. 25th for 2017 and includes 3 weekends, students would return on a Monday. In his opinion, it is better for students to come back from

that long of a break to just a 2 or 3 day week to ease back into the school schedule. Flex days are also included in this schedule. On the flex days if school has been missed and make up days are needed the flex days will be planned e learning days. If no school needs to be made up it is a day off for students and teachers. Both Option 2 and 3 finish the school year before Memorial Day.

As far as the survey results, 113 responded. 49.56% favored Option 1, 24.78% favored Option 2, and 25.66% favored Option 3.

Points to consider in looking at the current calendar. Two weeks were taken from the summer, one was put in for fall break and one was added to spring break. A true balanced calendar would have a 2-3 week break after every 6 or 9 weeks grading period and continue throughout the year.

Assessments: Istep April 17 - May 5
ECA April 24 - May 26
AP May 1 - May 12
PSAT October 18, 2017, make up November 1, 2017

Vacation days and breaks are scattered throughout the calendar in Option 2 and 3. Calendars for other school corporations: Marshall County schools are similar to Option 1, Knox is similar to Option 1, North Judson, John Glenn and Union-North are similar to Option 2 or 3.

Oregon-Davis does not have to be on the same calendar as other schools because of CTE or Jesse programs. All of these programs will work with any of the calendars.

After a brief discussion from the audience and the board, Dr. Harman stated that if the board asks him for a recommendation, he will recommend Option 2. Most of the discussion centered around the after school tutoring taking place now as opposed to intercessions and seemed to be very favorable.

The meeting then turned to the start of the school day. One question Dr. Harman has asked since coming to the district is why do we start school at 7:20? He is concerned with students not being awake and alert when they come to school and that we have 4 buses picking up students before 6 am. He asked the board if he could do some research on the starting times for schools. He sent out information to the board, staff and parents on this research. He then showed a brief video supporting later start times. A few things Dr. Harman wanted to point out was that Oregon-Davis School Corporation is in the Central Time Zone. He is trying to look out for what is best for the students in the Central Time Zone. The survey results were not really conclusive. There were 148 responses. Dr. Harman asked in the survey how this would affect students academic achievement and how would it affect the family. The reason he brought this to the board is because research shows it is better for students when they have a later start time. Mrs. McIntosh asked if a half hour in the whole scheme of things will make a difference. Dr. Harman said that safety would be a factor if we had a later time. Safety in whether a delay or closing occurs, safety in students being transported or driving to school. Mr. Hayes asked about kids waiting at home alone is there a safety issue there? Much of the discussion from the audience was centered around how this affects families. One of the superintendent's roles is to bring to the board how we can improve the growth of our students. He has talked with Jesse and CTE directors and the start times do not matter. Other schools in Starke County start later

than we do. Neighboring school districts on eastern time are 8 to 3 (7 - 2 central time). After school activities would possibly use the activity buses for athletics. He has not talked with Youth Club but that would also be affected. Before school care has been asked about and there is not an answer to that yet because of funding. It is something that can be explored. These are just points he is bringing to the board and the community. Mrs. McIntosh asked about the odds of losing students if we changed time. Comments were also made about practice times for athletics in morning or pushing back later at night. Mrs. McIntosh also stated that there is no miracle cure and they will not make everyone happy. Mrs. Budka brought up the point about the length of time children would be left alone and that is a safety concern. One patron emphasized that people have been accustomed to the 7:20 starting time for quite some time and have built their lives around that time and that needs to be considered. Dr. Harman concluded by reminding the audience that this was a work session with the purpose of having the board have discussion and hear from those in attendance, no action is being taken on this issue at this time—it is not a done deal. He also said if anyone has concerns please feel free to call and talk to him.

At this point Mr. Lawrence asked for a motion of adjournment. Mrs. McIntosh made that motion and Mrs. Budka seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Kurt Hayes, Secretary

Minutes recorded by Julie McLiver