

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### DECISION REPORT

**DATE:** January 16, 2018  
**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Evelyn Novak, Superintendent  
**RE:** **2018–2019 LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Board of Education approve the Draft 2018–2019 Local School Calendar as outlined, for feedback from employees, parents and public.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

For the past number of years, since 2014, following new provincial legislation regarding Local School Calendars introduced in 2012 requiring school districts to determine the year calendar, the Local School Calendar for Chilliwack School District has included a 2-week Spring break.

A Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the Board of Education and the Chilliwack Teachers' Association (CTA) has been required as the 2-week Spring break includes going beyond the Hours of Work for teachers as defined by the Collective Agreement. In the Letter of Understanding, Elementary teachers have varied around 25.41 weekly instructional hours, which is above the maximum 25 Hours of Work as defined by the Collective Agreement. Middle/Secondary teachers have had additional weekly Hours of Work exceeding the parameters of the Collective Agreement, averaging around 27.83, above the 27.5 Hours of Work.

While there are no restrictions in the CUPE Collective Agreement regarding a 1-week or 2-week Spring break, in good faith, the School District has typically signed a Letter of Understanding with CUPE, adding some additional time to 10-month CUPE staff in order for 10-month CUPE staff to be compensated for the additional Spring break days. There was no agreement reached with CUPE for the 2017-2018 year and, as a result, a Letter of Understanding was not signed by the District and CUPE.

As per the School Calendar Regulation, a Board must make public a proposed school calendar one month before submitting it to the Ministry prior to March 31. During the consultation period, a Board must provide parents and employees of the Board the opportunity to comment on the proposed calendar. Therefore, the Local School Calendar, once approved, will be posted on the district website, in order to provide opportunity for employee, parent and public feedback.

The Local School Calendar 2018-2019 will be brought back to the Board of Education, with a summary of feedback, for final approval.

**PROPOSED 2018-2019 CALENDAR DETAILS:**

The proposed Local School Calendar for 2018-2019 was drafted for the Board's consideration adhering to the parameters of the Teachers' Collective Agreement, which includes a 1-week Spring break only. Given the parameters of the Collective Agreement regarding Teacher Hours of Work in conjunction with the required legislated instructional hours for students, including not being able to reach a signed Letter of Understanding with the Chilliwack Teachers' Association for this year's 2017-2018 Local School Calendar with a 2-week Spring break, it is not possible to have a 2-week Spring break incorporated into the proposed 2018-2019 school year.

The proposed 2018-2019 School Year begins following the September Labour Day weekend on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. The school year ends on June 27, 2019 for students with an Administrative Day for staff on Friday, June 28, 2019.

There is a 1-week Spring break, as per the Collective Agreement, D.22.2.5. ***“the first day of spring break shall be the third Monday in March. School shall reopen the fourth Monday in March.”*** The spring break will be inclusive of Monday, March 18 to Friday, March 22, 2019. There are no provisions in the Collective Agreement for administration to be able to propose a 2-week Spring break.

Good Friday is April 19, 2019 and Easter Monday is April 22, 2019.

There are 186 instructional days for students. These additional days, relative to the last few years, will incur budget considerations, as there will be additional transportation costs associated with these days.

The Ministry requires **952** hours of instruction for Grade 9 to Grade 12 students. This Draft Local School Calendar provides 992 hours of instruction for Grade 9 to Grade 12 students, which meets the legislated requirements.

The Ministry requires **878** hours of instruction for Grades 1 to Grade 7 students and **853** hours of instruction for Kindergarten students. For instructional time purposes, because Middle schools will be grades 6 to 8 following reconfiguration, Middle school students are included as per the requirement for Elementary hours of instruction. With 186 instructional days, the hours of instruction for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students are 883.5. This includes 285 minutes of instructional time/day for students and a 15-minute recess for a total of 300 minutes/day for the purposes of calculating Hours of Work for Elementary teachers. Therefore, the legislated requirements for hours of instruction are being met for Elementary and Middle school students.

As per past practice and the Collective Agreement, for the purposes of Hours of Work, Middle school staff are included in the Secondary Hours of Work of 27.5 hours/week. For Middle School students as per Elementary, there are 285 minutes of instructional time/day with a 15-minute recess. A total of 27.5 Hours of Work for Middle School teachers as per the Collective Agreement provides additional flexibility for team time and collaboration.

The 2018-2019 Local School Calendar, as attached, includes the details regarding the allocated Non-Instructional Days, Statutory holidays and 1-week Spring Break.