

## **SPECIAL BOARD (PUBLIC)** **Report 20-062**

**9 July 2020**

### **Revisions to the School Year Calendar-Key Dates 2020-2021**

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#### **PURPOSE:**

1. This report seeks approval of the recommendations regarding the revised 2020-2021 elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

#### **CONTEXT:**

2. Provincial [regulation 304](#) governing the design and composition of school year calendars requires that district school boards submit their proposed calendars to the Ministry of Education for approval by 01 May 2020. If a modified school year calendar is to be submitted, the deadline for submission is March 1, 2020.

3. Report 20-022 School Year Calendar- Key Dates was approved 25 February, 2020 and submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. During a regular school year, MOE approval of modified school year calendars would take place by 25 April, 2020.

4. Communication was received on 30 June, 2020 from the Ministry of Education outlining additional considerations and requirements for approval of school year calendars given the release of the Ontario's Approach to Reopening Schools for 2020-21 on 19 June, 2020

1. In order to maximize instruction time for students, school boards and school authorities are encouraged to start their school year by September 1, 2020.
2. School boards are advised to schedule three PA Days prior to the start of student instruction.
3. Provincial consultations are currently underway with the sector's stakeholders on PA Days and training to support the preparation for the reopening of school. Further direction re the required content of the PA Days will be provided in the future.
4. Revised School Year Calendar submissions that meet the above requirements are to be submitted to the Ministry of Education by 10 July 2020.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

5. The District's administrative procedure for school year calendars ([PR.526.SCO](#)) provides direction for consultation on the calendar through an ad hoc School Year Calendar [Consultative Committee](#) (Appendix C) composed of representatives from the various employee groups, parent representatives (OCASC / PIC), school principals, students (Student Senate, Council of Co-Presidents), and various central departments from the District. An additional level of consultation takes place between the local area school boards, both English and French boards.

6. The recommended school year calendars at elementary and secondary for the 2020-2021 school year approved on 25 February 2020 are identified below:

Elementary School Program Operation	
PA Day - Provincial Priorities	31 August 2020
Start of School Year for students	1 September 2020
PA Day - Provincial Priorities	9 October 2020
PA Day - Parent/Teacher Interviews	13 November 2020
Winter Holiday Break	21 December 2020 to 1 January 2021
PA Day - Report Card Development	22 January 2021
PA Day -Provincial Priorities	12 February 2021
March Break out in	15 March 2021 to 19 March 2021
PA Day -District Priorities	23 April 2021
PA Day - Report Card Development	4 June 2021
Last Day of School for students	25 June 2021

Secondary School Program Operation	
PA Day - Provincial Priorities	31 August 2020

Start of School Year for students	1 September 2020
PA Day - Provincial Priorities	9 October 2020
PA Day - Provincial Priorities	13 November 2020
Winter Holiday Break	21 December 2020 to 1 January 2021
Semester One Examinations	25-29 January 2021
March Break	15 March 2021 to 19 March 2021
PA Day -District Priorities	23 April 2021
Semester Two Examinations	16-22 June 2021
Last Day of School for students	23 June 2021
PA Day- District Priorities	23, 24, 25 June 2021

7. As the OCDSB school year calendars had a school year start date of 01 September 2020 and had one PA Day prior to the start of the school year, the school year consultative committee considered options to revise the placement of two additional PA Days in order to begin the year with the three recommended PA Days. The addition of two additional PA Days would equally result in the start of the school year for students moving from 01 September to 03 September 2020.

The following options were considered:

OPTION A:

ORIGINAL	REVISED
09 October 2020 (MOE Priority PA Day)	01 September 2020 (PA Day)
23 April 2021 (District Priority PA Day)	02 September 2020 (PA Day)
01 September: Start of School for Students	03 September: Start of School for Students

OPTION B:

REMOVAL	REPLACE
09 October 2020 (MOE Priority PA Day)	01 September 2020
13 November 2020 Elementary: Parent-Teacher Interview Day (District PA Day) Secondary: MOE Priority PA Day	02 September 2020
01 September: Start of School for Students	03 September: Start of School for Students

In option B, parent teacher interviews would take place but not during a PA Day. This is the model for parent teacher interviews that take place for the Term1 report cards at elementary and for secondary students.

#### OPTION C:

REMOVAL	REPLACE
09 October 2020 (MOE Priority PA Day)	01 September 2020
13 November 2020 Secondary: MOE Priority PA Day 21 February 2020 Elementary MOE Priority PA Day	02 September 2020
01 September: Start of School for Students	03 September: Start of School for Students

In option C, 13 November 2020 would remain a PA Day for elementary students however secondary students would remain at school.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

8. There are financial implications arising when the school year calendar is not fully aligned with our co-terminous school board, given that the shared transportation service is operating when one of the two school boards is not in session. Cost estimates range between \$20,000 and \$30,000 per day.

#### **COMMUNICATION CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

9. Consultation with members of the ad hoc School Year Calendar Consultative Committee took place on 22 June 2020 and 03 July 2020. In consultation with the SYC consultative committee and the senior staff team, option B is being recommended. Multiple conversations took place with the coterminous board due to shared transportation.

Additionally, representatives from neighbouring school districts within our community and Eastern Ontario were also contacted as part of the consultation process.

#### **STRATEGIC LINKS:**

10. Work surrounding the establishment of the District's school year calendar is the underpinning for District-level activity within the District's Strategic Plan and creates a key framework to support student learning and well-being.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the revised school year calendars be submitted to the Ministry of Education as the official 2020-2021 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT the revised school year calendars attached as Appendix A and Appendix B to Report 20-062 be submitted to the Ministry of Education as the official 2020-2021 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.**

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K-12

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Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board