

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { } ACTION { X } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - ACTION

Consideration of Adjustment to 2014-15 Division Calendar

BACKGROUND: Survey Results:

- There were 246 respondents to the survey: online & paper, parents and staff.
- School affiliation of respondents:
 - BCHS – 33%
 - MES – 28%
 - VES – 40%
- 88% of respondents with a preference indicated that we should “add minutes to the school day to help prevent the school year extending into the second full week of June, as in 2013-14.”
- Of respondents who favored adding minutes to the school day, 58% said to split the minutes between the morning and afternoon, and another 38% favored afternoon only.
- Results were evenly split in whether or not to reduce the number of holidays in the calendar
- Of respondents who favored reducing the number of holidays, the most favored holiday to reduce was Fall Break/Thanksgiving—55%, followed by Easter—34% and Memorial Day—27%.
- 13% of survey respondents indicated that they did not want to add minutes or reduce holidays.
- 87 respondents added comments, generally underscoring their position on other survey items. Others asked whether or not un-needed minutes/days would be taken off the end of the school year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- As the vast majority of respondents favored adding minutes to the school day, and as doing so would reduce the number of June school days and/or other last-minute makeup days, the board may consider adding either 10 or 17 minutes to the school day, divided between morning and afternoon. A 10-minute addition would provide an extra minute per high school period, plus additional time for periods disproportionately affected by 2-hour delay school days, resulting in an anticipated last day of school by the first week of June, though not providing an extra buffer for a more severe winter such as in 2013-14. A 17-minute addition would also provide the extra buffer, if that is desired.
- One option that may help is to recommend that BCHS move homeroom into 1st Period, saving the four-minute travel time between homeroom and 1st period. This four minutes could be subtracted from any additional minutes otherwise added to the day. The disadvantage for BCHS is that when they need to have grade level conversations, they would have to schedule a special time or to occasionally interrupt English classes.
- If holidays are to be reduced, the board may consider reducing the number of Fall/Thanksgiving holidays—the most-suggested days in survey responses.
- It is not recommended to pre-determine that unused make-up days/minutes be taken off the end of the school year. In the event of an unusually mild winter, this decision could be made at an appropriate time later in the school year.

Bath County Public Schools

P.O. Box 67

Warm Springs, Virginia 24484

Phone: 540-839-2722

Fax: 540-839-3040

www.bath.k12.va.us

June 6, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A request has been made to potentially reduce the number of planned makeup days at the end of next year's 2014-15 school calendar (makeup days 6-10: the second week of June). Public schools in Virginia are required to schedule at least 180 teaching days per school year. The first five days missed for inclement weather or other emergencies must be made up. Beyond that, schools must make up one day for each two days missed by adding teaching days to the school calendar or extending the length of the school day. Additionally, there is a 140 hour requirement for high school credit classes.

As background, a calendar committee of parents, teachers and other school staff submitted a proposed 2013-14 calendar to the school board in March 2013; the proposal was approved by the board. Although there were provisions for makeup days, the continued inclement weather in February and March of this year necessitated a change to the current year calendar—moving two pupil holidays (March 31 and May 26) to full pupil school days, and increasing two early release days (April 17 and June 13) to full pupil school days. In addition, the high school adjusted its bell schedule to move additional minutes to periods that were affected by our large number of 2 Hr. Delay days this year. The adjustment in March provided just enough additional minutes to meet state mandates.

It is possible to amend our 2014-15 calendar to satisfy the request in three ways:

- **Add minutes to the beginning or end of the school day.** An increase of 17 minutes per day is enough 'extra' time to make up for a winter such as what we just experienced, and to still finish school in early June (June 5 of the 2014-15 year) with just five make-up days.
- **Reduce the number of holidays during the school year.** If we choose to reduce the number of student holidays (Fall Break/Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Year, Easter, etc), then an equivalent amount of time could be reduced from the school day—a 3 day reduction in holidays equals about seven minutes of reduced time per school day.
- **Reduce the number of teacher inservice days or workdays during the school year.** Teacher inservice/work days in the calendar are necessary to respond to important staff needs, to complete periodic reports and to plan for instruction. These days should not be reduced.

Please respond to the survey on the reverse side of this page to let school staff know your preference regarding changes to the 2014-15 school calendar. A copy of the current approved 2014-15 calendar is attached for your convenience. Thank you for your assistance as we seek to provide the best instructional experiences for the children and youth of Bath County.

Sincerely,

Sue Hirsh
Division Superintendent

Bath County Public Schools
June 2014 School Calendar Survey - Parents

(please check one or more)

_____ Do you prefer to add minutes to the school day to help prevent the school year extending into the second full week of June, as in 2013-14? If so, do you prefer to add minutes to the:

_____ Morning

_____ Afternoon

_____ Split Between Both

_____ Do you prefer to reduce the number of holidays in the calendar? If so, from where do you prefer to take these days?

_____ Fall Break/Thanksgiving

_____ Christmas/New Year

_____ Easter

_____ Memorial Day

_____ Other _____

_____ I do not want to add minutes to the school day or reduce the number of student holidays.

School: _____ Student Name: _____

Printed name of parent/guardian: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

You may add comments below.

Please return this survey to your child's school by Friday, June 13.

BATH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2014-2015 DIVISION CALENDAR

Bath County High School
464 Charger Lane Hot Springs, VA 24445
540-839-2431

Valley Elementary School
98 Panther Drive Hot Springs, VA 24445
540-839-5395

Millboro Elementary School
411 Church Street Millboro, VA 24460
540-997-5452 / 540-839-5804

Friday	August 8.....	New Teachers Report (8:15 AM-3:30 PM)
Mon.-Friday, Monday	August 11-18.....	All Teachers Report (8:15 AM-3:30 PM; 30 min. lunch) (Inservice & Workdays will be defined by Pre-School Workday Calendar)
Tuesday	August 19.....	FIRST PUPIL DAY
Monday	September 1.....	Labor Day Holiday
Monday	September 22.....	Progress Reports Sent Home
Friday	September 26.....	Early Release 12:30 PM (If Delayed Opening – Becomes Full Day) Teacher Inservice 1:00-3:30 PM
Tuesday	October 21.....	1st Grading Period Ends Early Release 12:30 PM (If Delayed Opening – Becomes Full Day) Teacher Workday 1:00-3:30 PM
Tuesday	October 28.....	Pupil Holiday Teacher Inservice 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences (Report Cards) 1:00-4:00 PM & 4:30-7:00 PM
Thursday	November 20.....	Progress Reports Sent Home
Mon.-Friday	November 24-28...	Fall Break -- Thanksgiving Holiday
Tues.-Thurs.	December 16-18...	BCHS Exams - Full Day (pending any days missed)** (Exams + Study/Review)
Friday	December 19.....	BCHS Exams (pending any days missed)** Early Release 12:30 PM (If Delayed Opening – Becomes Full Day) Teacher Workday 1:00-3:30 PM
Mon.-Friday	Dec. 22-Jan. 2.....	Christmas & New Year's Holiday
Monday	January 5.....	School Resumes / Students Return
Friday	January 16.....	2nd Grading Period Ends / End of Term I Early Release 12:30 PM (If Delayed Opening – Becomes Full Day) Teacher Workday 1:00-3:30 PM
Monday	January 19.....	Pupil Holiday / Teacher Workday 8:15 AM-3:30 PM
Monday	January 26.....	Report Cards Sent Home
Thursday	February 12.....	Pupil Holiday / Teacher Inservice 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences (Progress Reports) 1:00-4:00 PM & 4:30-7:00 PM
Monday	March 9.....	Pupil Holiday / Teacher Inservice 8:15 AM-3:30 PM
Thursday	April 2.....	3rd Grading Period Ends Early Release 12:30 PM (If Delayed Opening – Becomes Full Day) Teacher Workday 1:00-3:30 PM
Fri.-Tuesday	April 3-7.....	Spring Break
Tuesday	April 14.....	Report Cards Sent Home
Monday	May 4.....	Progress Reports Sent Home
Monday	May 25.....	Memorial Day Holiday
Tues.-Thurs.	May 26-28.....	BCHS Senior Exams - Full Day (pending any days missed)** (Exams + Study/Review)
Tues.-Thurs.	June 2-4.....	BCHS Exams - Full Day (pending any days missed)** (Exams + Study/Review)
Friday	June 5.....	BCHS Exams (pending any days missed)** Early Release 12:30 PM (If Delayed Opening – Becomes Full Day) LAST PUPIL DAY Teacher Workday 1:00-3:30 PM
Mon.-Wed.	June 8, 9, 10.....	Teacher Workdays (8:15 AM-3:30 PM; 30 min. lunch) OR Make-Up Days #6, #7, #8* (There will be <u>three</u> (3) teacher workdays following the last pupil day.)
Thurs.-Friday	June 11, 12.....	Make-Up Days #9, #10*
Monday	June 15.....	Report Cards Mailed Home (no later than 5 days after last day of school)

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School Board Approved: 12/3/13

<i>Subject to emergency closings, some calendar dates may need to be shifted or changed according to days missed.</i>	
*	If any scheduled make-up day becomes a closed school day, the numbering of make-up days will slide.
**	Days missed prior to exams will not affect scheduled exam days. Delayed opening on exam days will not affect exams and will result in dismissal at regular time. Exam days missed will cause exams to shift according to the number of days missed.

	SCHOOL DAYS	PUPIL HOLIDAYS	EARLY RELEASE DAYS	TEACHER INSERVICE/WORKDAYS
AUGUST	9	0	0	6
SEPTEMBER	21	1	1	0
OCTOBER	22	1	1	2*
NOVEMBER	15	5	0	0
DECEMBER	15	8	1	0
JANUARY	19	3	1	1
FEBRUARY	19	1	0	2*
MARCH	21	1	0	1
APRIL	19	3	1	0
MAY	20	1	0	0
JUNE	5	0	1	3
	185	24	6	15

(*Parent/Teacher Conference days are credited as two (2) teacher workdays.)

Total Scheduled Days.....	200
Unscheduled Workday.....	<u> 0</u>
TOTAL	200

GRADING PERIOD ENDS	NO. DAYS	PROGRESS REPORTS	REPORT CARDS
1 st – October 21	45	September 22	October 28 *
2 nd – January 16	47	November 20	January 26
3 rd – April 2	51	February 12 *	April 14
4 th – June 5	42	May 4	June 15
TOTAL	185	* Parent-Teacher Conference	