

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### DECISION REPORT

**DATE:** January 15, 2019

**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Rohan Arul-pragasam, Acting Superintendent

**RE:** **2019 – 2020 LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Board of Education approve the Draft 2019–2020 Local School Calendar as outlined for feedback from employees, parents and the public.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

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 the Chilliwack School District has included a 2-week Spring Break.

A Letter of Understanding with 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. The LOUs in the past have also included provisions for paying Teachers Teaching On Call to attend three (3) non-instructional days for curriculum implementation.

A Letter of Understanding (LOU) was signed after the implementation of 2018-2019 Local School Calendar with modifications to the Collective Agreement that included Articles D.22.5; D 23.1; and D 23.2. A separate LOU had to be signed for paying Teachers Teaching On Call to attend three (3) non-instructional days for curriculum implementation for 2018-2019, as when the original LOU was submitted, the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) indicated that they will no longer sign off on LOUs pertaining to Spring Break with additional provisions for TTOCs.

As a result, at our last meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, we informed the CTA that, in order to facilitate a 2-week spring break for the 2019-2020 school year, the LOU will exclude any provisions for paying Teachers Teaching On Call to attend non-instructional days. The Chilliwack Teachers' Association has indicated that they will inform us by the end of January 2019 if they intend to sign a LOU without provisions to pay Teachers Teaching On Call.

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 them 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 representatives of employees of the Board the opportunity to comment on the proposed calendar. Therefore, the Local School Calendar, which the Board approves, should be posted on the district website by early February, in order to provide the required opportunity for employee, parent and public feedback.

### **PROPOSED 2019 – 2020 CALENDAR DETAILS:**

The proposed Local School Calendar for 2019 – 2020 was drafted in consultation with the Chilliwack Teachers' Association and includes a 2-week Spring Break where all teachers instruct six minutes/day beyond the Hours of Work provisions contained in the Teachers' Collective Agreement. A signed LOU will be required between the Board of Education and the Chilliwack Teachers' Association because the Local School Calendar will be going outside the Collective Agreement. The LOU will be identical in framework to the signed LOU for the 2018-2019 School Calendar.

The 2019 – 2020 School Year begins following the September Labour Day weekend on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. The school year ends on June 25, 2020 for students with an Administrative Day for staff on Friday, June 26, 2020.

There is a 2-week Spring Break, "*the first day of spring break shall be the third Monday in March. School shall reopen the fifth Monday in March.*" (Modification to The Collective Agreement, Article D.22.2.5). Spring break will be inclusive of Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 27, 2020. Good Friday is April 10, 2020 and Easter Monday is April 13, 2020.

There are 181 instructional days for students. The Ministry requires **952** hours of instruction for Grade 8 to Grade 12 students. This proposal would provide 965 hours of instruction for Grade 9 to Grade 12 students, which then meets the legislated requirements. As per past practice, Middle Schools are included in the Secondary Hours of Instruction requirements, which provides flexibility for Middle School teachers with additional team time for collaboration. These hours of instruction for Middle Schools also provide for a 15 minute recess/day for students, which is not classified as instructional time by the Ministry but is included in the calculations for Hours of Work for Middle School teachers.

The Ministry requires **878** hours of instruction for Grades 1 to Grade 7 students and **853** hours of instruction for Kindergarten students. With 181 instructional days, the hours of instruction for Kindergarten to Grade 5 students are 878. This includes 291 minutes of instructional time/day for students and a 15-minute recess for a total of 306 minutes/day for the purposes of calculating Hours of Work for Elementary teachers.