

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 12

MEETING OF January 27, 2021

ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION topics

- a. Review of proposed 2021-2022 school year calendar: The proposed school year calendar for 2021-2022 is attached. Comments were invited on the calendar, including from the public. The submitted comments are also attached.

- b. School District staff and the COVID vaccine: Several Board members have had conversations with health officials and others regarding when school district staff might be able to get a COVID vaccine.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District -- 2021-2022 Calendar

AUGUST '21							Teacher First Day - August 23							JANUARY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Student First Day - August 26							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Student Last Day - June 2													1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Teacher Last Day - Middle/High June 2, Elem. 6/3							2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Staff Professional Development Day							9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23P	24P	25W	26	27	28	P=August 23 - All Staff							16	17W	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					P=August 24 - All Staff							23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				T 7	S 4		P=September 13 - All Staff							30	31	T21/20			S20	
SEPTEMBER '21							Early Release Wednesdays - All Staff							FEBRUARY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Staff Work Day							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4	W=August 25 - All Staff									1	2	3	4	5
5	6H	7	8	9	10	11	W=January 17 - Middle/High Staff							6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13P	14	15	16	17	18	W=June 3 - Elementary Staff							13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Holidays - Breaks							20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30			H=Labor Day - September 6							27	28					
				T21	S20		H=Veteran's Day - November 11											T20	S20	
OCTOBER '21							H=Thanksgiving - November 24-26							MARCH '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	H=Christmas - December 20-January 2							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2	H=New Year - January 1									1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	H=Martin Luther King - January 17 (Staff Work Day-No School for students)							6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	SB=Spring Break - March 14-18							13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	H=Memorial Day - May 30							20	21	22	23	24	25	26
24	25	26	27	28	29	30								27	28	29	30	31		
31				T21	S20													T18	S17	
NOVEMBER '21							Parent Teacher Conferences							APRIL '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	PT=October 15 - No School							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	PT= March 11- No School												1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13								3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20								10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27								17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30					End of Grading Periods							24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				T18	S18		Q=High School/Middle School- October 29, January 14, April 1, June 2.											T21	S21	
DECEMBER '21							T=Elementary Trimester - November 19, March 2, June 2							MAY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	T=Elementary Trimester - November 19, March 2, June 2							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4								1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11								8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18								15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25								22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31									29	30	31				
				T13	S13													T21	S21	
JUNE '22														JUNE '22						
							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							
										1	2	3	4							
							7	6	7	8	9	10	11							
							12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
							19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
							26	27	28	29	30									
											T2/3	S2								

Student Days 176

Teacher Days 183

2021-22 Calendar Feedback

The calendar committee invited feedback on the 2021-22 school year calendar:

*“The KGBSD Calendar Committee is proposing the following calendar for the **2021-2022** school year. The assumption is that COVID will not affect the calendar. If this happens then the department of education will provide districts with specific guidelines.*

Please review the proposed calendar and provide comments and/or suggestions.”

Following are the responses that were received:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day should not be a workday for anyone. Middle/high school teachers and staff could utilize the extra day at the end of the year just like Elementary.

Feb 21, 2022 —President's Day should be a holiday. I'd rather have President's Day as a holiday than Veteran's Day. Taking Thursday, Nov 11 off from school will be challenging in that it disrupts consistency in the week. Thanks

I think the proposed calendar looks good. I am wondering if this is a calendar reflective of early release Fridays continue providing staff professional development time for the year. I feel like without the early release only having one work day and professional development day thorough out the year is not enough.

One thing this year has shown us is the power of having time to plan and collaborate with out department/grade level colleagues. I would rather start on Tuesday, August 24, have three professional development days and a work day that week before school, have the students start on a Monday, and have the last day for students be June 3rd.

I always love having the Weds off before Thanksgiving for sanity. I see that there is 2 weeks of PD before school...is the purpose of that to support teachers in preparing adequate on-line platforms in case of emergency? Also the link to feedback for this calendar shows up not very prominently "below" the calendar and the directions in red on the calendar page say to find the link "above" the calendar...maybe it's my browser?

As the calendar is currently written, Elementary has one more day than Secondary. That day used to be for conferences, but it doesn't refer to anything like that on the calendar.

Is there a way to begin a week earlier so we do not have to return after Memorial Day? Having to come back for three to four days doesn't accomplish much when the kids have already had a three day weekend and have summer on the brain.

I like it.

FEEDBACK continued

Everything looks fine, but I feel like we should advocate to preserve that whole first week for professional development (like we had this year) and make excellent use of that time - particularly with our ESP staff, staff with CPI training needs and other district wide topics such as MTSS, trauma-engaged education, cultural celebration in schools, staff emotional intelligence, and subtopics related to specific professional roles ... I wonder who would write such things? Love, Anonymous School Psychologist. xo

I really don't like that Elementary conferences are approximately 20 days into our school year. I have very little feedback for the families as we are just getting our routine down in kindergarten. I would like them to be closer to report cards if possible.

I am also confused as to why we have a staff professional development day on September 13th. It seems like those should be spread out more evenly, since we will have just had two PD days at the start of school and already missed the previous Monday for Labor Day. Additionally, I know many staff members would prefer to have the week of Thanksgiving off, rather than take Veteran's Day off during the middle of the week. To make up for the additional missed day, students could start school on August 25th, instead of the 26th. I do not feel that it is beneficial for students to attend school for two days during that week, since most people are traveling for the holiday or would like to have that time to spend with family members.

- 1 : Why is this calendar being planned as if COVID is going to magically go away by August 2021?
- 2: The kids start on a Thursday? This is not very productive.
- 3: The kids come back to school for TWO days after a 3 day weekend. How is this productive?
- 4: We have never had Nov 11th off in my entirety of time at the school district. Not sure why you're starting now.
- 5: Make Thanksgiving Break a whole week.

Honestly, just move the Calendar up a week. Have Staff come in for however long for the week of August 16th, students can start that following Monday (8/23) for a full week, and we can end the school year before Memorial day.

Please continue to keep early release days on Fridays and not Wednesdays. It works so much better for parents and their jobs. We have all already adjusted to this schedule and would prefer not to have to rearrange everything with caregivers/employers again. Thank you for your consideration.

I'd love to see the first parent teacher conferences in October pushed back closer to the end of the first trimester. Typically we have parent informational nights, open houses and such within the first three weeks of school and we're only half way through the trimester at conferences so honestly there is not a lot of new information to share with parents at this point.

Keep early release on Friday.

I would like to see the staff professional day moved from 9/13 to 11/12 instead of having a Thursday off and having to return to school on a Friday.

I strongly oppose "early release" Wednesday. I do not support any "early release" schedule. Why is the district doing this? How has it benefited the students or schools? I would prefer to go back to an entire day of teacher training rather than "early release". I have heard teachers comment that the entire day becomes pointless because it throws them off their schedule. Please, do not have "early release" be a part of the 2021-2022 school year. If it is absolutely necessary, then please keep it at Friday.

FEEDBACK continued

I have absolutely no idea why, after parents filling out several of these, did you move early release day back to Wednesday. Parents overwhelmingly told you that we want that day, since we are forced to pick one, to be Friday. Early release should be changed back to Friday.

If we must have early release days, please keep them on Fridays.

As a working parent, early release on Wednesday is incredibly difficult. Friday is working so much better. It is also good for my younger child who is just tired by Friday. If early release can't be on Fridays then I think it should be eliminated all together. It is easier to manage full in-service days than it is to manage early-out Wednesdays. Please, please move early release back to Friday.

Can we just take an extra day or two off and skip early release. Or do an actual half day (get out at 12) once a month? I don't think an hour a week actually helps teachers and its confusing.

Keep early release to Friday's or have staff work an hour after kids are dismissed at normal release times this way only staff kids need childcare and not the whole island and working parents continuing to loose pay. OR move back to scheduled staff days off.

Please have early release on Fridays. It provides for a longer weekend for the kids. Midweek is disruptive to schedules both in school and out.

I see that the early release day is going back to Wednesday. I would very much like to see it stay on Friday. Or if there is a particular reason Fridays are not working, maybe consider Monday instead. Midweek is very difficult from a teacher's perspective because you lose a lot of momentum having that different schedule in the midst of a lesson, unit, or project. Thank you for reinstating the day off for veteran's day.

First, I completely understand teachers wanting time to do some of their prep, grading, etc, during the school week! But, it is a hardship for parents to have kids come home early one day a week. Yes, some employers can accommodate, but imagine if you are an employer and have three people who need to leave early on Friday to go home to their kids.

Why can't the schools do a couple study hours, library time, gym time, etc instead of sending the kids home early. You could have the paras monitor, answer questions, keep the peace. Kids would get a few extra hours of work time. Parents/employers would be happier.

Please have early release on Fridays. It provides for a longer weekend for the kids. Midweek is disruptive to schedules both in school and out.

Please put the early release on Fridays. This middle of the week change in schedule is very hard on working parents.

FEEDBACK continued

I missed the explanation as to what the early-release days are for? It would be appreciated to explain that again for everyone to understand since it account for nearly 34 hours of NO school. If the teachers contract requires this early release day per week, then my request is for it to be on Friday and not in the middle of the week. There also should NOT be a "staff development" day off one week after labor day when they already had two on August 23 and 24th...the placement of that day is awkward and not warranted. The extra day off for Thanksgiving (Nov. 25th) is not necessary...they should be in school and should instead be used so the kids can get out of school earlier at the end of the year. An explanation of "staff work day" is needed...what is it used for? How is it different that a "staff development day"? Are the kids in school that day? It is difficult to submit suggestions/comments without the clarification to the questions above...can a "key" be provided to the calendar to clarify each of the questions above?

I would prefer the calendar go back to having full staff training days instead of early release. If early release must happen, then keep it on Friday. Wednesday does not work for parents.

The start and end dates, as well as breaks, look fine to me.
Please, please consider moving early release back to Friday. It was so much better this year than last, particularly for the primary grades in elementary.

To be cultural responsive I do believe that the KGBSD should have Dr. Martin Luther King Jr day off.

Couldn't quite find the link to the calendar for suggestions for additions. I have only one offering:
Please add Elizabeth Peratrovich Day as a holiday (though we don't take the day off) but make it official on our calendar
Thanks for your consideration,

I would like to suggest that we consider shifting the entire calendar 1-2 weeks earlier in its start (Perhaps august 16 start)

While it would shorten this year's summer, the following benefits:

Would more closely align our calendar with that of other districts in region and state

Would allow the semester to end at the time of winter break, providing a smoother transition between semesters and would allow for greater rest for teachers and students as there'd be no work to do over break.

Would shorten the length of the time between winter break and end of school (that can be a long haul)

Would align our end of year more closely with other districts, better supporting student participation in state-wide summer programs and staff participation in summer learning opportunities.

Thank you for considering this input