



Carlisle Public Schools

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Administrative Memo

To: David Model, Carlisle School Committee Chair

From: Carlisle Calendar Committee

Date: January 31, 2018

Subject: 2018-2019 Proposed Calendar

The Carlisle School Calendar Committee, which is made up of three teachers and three administrators, met on Friday, January 26, 2018 to reconsider their calendar proposal for the 2018-2019 school year, at the request of the Carlisle School Committee. The Calendar Committee considered the idea of not having full parent conference days, as well as the idea of not observing Veteran's Day with a school closing day. It was noted by the Calendar Committee that the full-day parent conferences are included in the CTA agreement with the Carlisle School Committee, and therefore could not easily be changed, and since the non-observation of Veteran's Day was connected to the post-Labor day start, it was not addressed by the Calendar Committee at this time. The Calendar Committee also reaffirmed its support for the proposed 2018-2019 school calendar with a pre-Labor Day start.

Understanding that the majority of parents responding to a start date survey expressed a preference for a post-Labor day start, the Calendar Committee felt it was important to explain its rationale for the pre-Labor day start proposal. The Calendar Committee felt that the gradual start of school was most beneficial for students as it allowed students to become slowly immersed in their school year with a 2-day week followed by a 4-day week followed by a 5-day week. This gradual acclimation for students also allowed for classroom plans, assessments, procedures, and routines to be worked out during those first two days, and allowing for academic instruction to be the focus of the 4 day week. The Calendar Committee also placed a great deal of importance on the added value of instructional time at the start of the year, as compared to time in June. Additionally, though not a necessity, the pre-Labor day start aligns with the CCHS school year calendar. Finally, the Calendar Committee noted that if the start day were September 4 (a post-Labor day start), the projected last day of school would be Tuesday, June 18 and with 5 school closing dates, the last day of school would be Tuesday, June 25, which is well into the last week of June, and would create conflicts for some families with summer camps and summer programs. It is for all of these reasons that the Calendar Committee supports a pre-Labor Day start of school.