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President, PHILIP RUMORE

March 4, 2019

MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF
RE: Proposed Calendars

There have been several calls to the BTF about the two proposed calendars sent to all teachers. Some of the issues are addressed below.

[OPTION "A" \(click here\)](#)

The question was "Why can't there be a calendar that starts after Labor Day but includes the February break?" That was the case this year but according to Darren Brown, BPS Chief of Staff, the District is "not interested in that option again". The BTF requested such a calendar after we received Option "A". We suggested that August 28 and 29 not be teacher PD days and that in their place, November 27 and May 22 would be days of attendance. The District rejected this option because they want two (2) consecutive PD days for teachers BEFORE the start of the school year. This would allow the District to have half of the buildings attending PD at a separate location while the other half are in their buildings. If the first day for teachers is September 3rd, then September 5th would be the duty free set up day for teachers and students would start on Friday, September 6th. The District did not want students beginning school on a Friday.

Option A almost exactly mirrors the BOCES calendar. The only difference is that on the BOCES calendar, the Friday before Columbus Day is a holiday but on the proposed BPS calendar, Election Day is provided as a holiday instead. Also, as previously stated, note that if Option "A" is agreed to, it will be a Memorandum of Understanding with the District for the 2019-20 school year only and will not set a precedent for the future nor have any impact on contract negotiations.

[OPTION "B" \(click here\)](#)

This calendar complies with the provision of our contract which guarantees that the school year cannot begin prior to September 1st and may not have more than 42 consecutive weeks (Article VIII, B (1)). The District can adopt this calendar without an M.O.U. from the BTF. If the Council of Delegates votes down Option "A" on March 14 (or a later meeting, if necessary), the District could adopt Option "B" as its default calendar.

SNOW DAYS

Contrary to what the District previously stated, we believe both Option “A” and Option “B” incorporate up to six (6) snow days. Both options have 180 days of student attendance for elementary schools, two (2) half days, and six (6) Superintendent’s Conference Days (including the two scoring days). In past years, the half days did not count as student attendance days. As per new SED regulations, the half days can count as do up to four (4) Superintendent’s Conference Days towards the required 180 days of student attendance. This leaves up to six (6) days as “snow days”.

PR:JM:su