# 2015 Joint Calendar Advisory Committee

Report to the School Committees

September 22, 2015

# AGENDA

- Review the Charge
- Report of Activities
  - 2015 Calendar Survey Results
- Recommendations

# Calendar Advisory Committee Charge

- Provide the School Committees with recommendations to guide the establishment of future school calendars along with rationale to support those recommendations.

- See “2015 Joint Calendar Advisory Committee of the Concord and Concord-Carlisle School Committees” document for additional details.

# Calendar Advisory Committee
## Report of Activities

- Committee met six times (Apr. -Sept. 2015)
- IAW Guidelines
  - Elected Co-Chair Karin Johnson.
  - Concerned solely with CPS and CCRSD calendars.
  - Examined Mass General Law and Districts' contractual agreements with teachers.
  - Researched school calendars and policies from other Massachusetts schools.
  - Contacted other constituents.
  - Gathered and analyzed data from students, parents, faculty, staff and administrators.
  - Provided an initial report at the June Joint School Committee meeting.

# Calendar Advisory Committee
## 2015 Calendar Survey and Results

- Developed three versions of a base survey. Differences only in dividing demographically parents, staff and students.
  - Parents by CPS, CCRSD, CPS & CCRSD
  - Staff by CPS, CCRSD, CPS & CCRSD and also by Educator, 10-Month Staff, 12-Month Staff, Administrator
  - Students by Class affiliation

# Calendar Advisory Committee
## 2015 Calendar Survey and Results

- Responses via web survey
  - Parents – 1062 responses to 3805* emails (27.9%)
    - *2087 households (approx. 50%)
  - Students – 257 responses to 1255 emails (20.5%)
  - Staff – 165 responses to 681** emails (24.2%)

- **Responses via CTA/CCTA
  - CTA – on questions of religious holidays, vacation weeks and early June end of school
  - CCTA – 86% on question of vacation weeks.

# Calendar Advisory Committee
## 2015 Calendar Survey and Results

**I. In terms of the School Calendar, please indicate your preference to the choices provided. I prefer to:**

| | Parent n = 1062 | Staff n = 165 | Student n = 257 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Start the school year the last week in August and end school earlier in June. | 50.56% | -- | 54.09% |
| Start the school year the first week of September and end school later in June. | 49.44% | -- | 45.91% |

Note: This question was removed for Staff as it is an item in the CCTA and CTA contracts.

**II. MA schools may not be in session on federal and state holidays: Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years' Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Patriots' Day.* I prefer to:**

| | Parent n = 1062 | Staff n = 165 | CTA | Student n = 257 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Implement a practice of only observing federal and state mandated holidays* as non-school days. Students observing a religious holiday will receive an excused absence. | 79.47% | 66.67% | 66% | 29.57% |
| Maintain our current practice of non-school days on federal and state mandated holidays*, as well as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Good Friday. | 20.53% | 33.33% | 34% | 70.43% |

# Calendar Advisory Committee
## 2015 Calendar Survey and Results

**III. I prefer to:**

| | Parent n = 1062 | Staff n = 165 | CTA | CCTA (86%) | Student n = 257 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Have one vacation week in March in lieu of the current practice of a week in February and a week in April. Presidents' Day and Patriots' Day weekends will continue to be observed. | 59.42% | 36.36% | 17% | 16% | 18.68% |
| Keep the current school vacation schedule of February and April school vacation weeks in conjunction with Presidents' Day and Patriots' Day. | 40.58% | 63.64% | 83% | 80% | 81.32% |

**IV. In the last two years, the last student day has been June 27tn. An earlier last day of school/end of school year in June is important to me.**

| | Parent n = 1062 | Staff n = 165 | CTA | Student n = 257 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 65.07% | 73.33% | majority | 72.76% |
| No | 34.93% | 26.67% | | 27.24% |

# Calendar Advisory Committee
## 2015 Calendar Survey and Results

**V. Please rank in order of preference the following calendar option (1 as most preferable and 4 as least preferable). You can drag and drop the questions to the order that you prefer.**
*Note: Some survey respondents indicated they had difficulty with the auto-sort feature of this question and so their final order may not be accurately reflected in the results.

| **Ranked 1st or 2nd %** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **August Start** | **No Rel Holidays** | **One Vaca Week** | **No Changes** |
| **Parents (1062)** | **48.5%** | **77%** | **46%** | **28%** |
| **Staff* (165)** | **--** | **73%** | **24%** | **35%** |
| **Students (257)** | **66%** | **54%** | **20%** | **70%** |

# Calendar Advisory Committee

## Recommendations – Specific Calendar Issues

- Religious Holidays
  - Only observe Federal and State holidays as required non-school days when developing the calendar.
- Two vs. One Vacation Week
  - Continue to study and explore this option in the future.
- Start of School
  - Consensus on ending school earlier in June.

# Calendar Advisory Committee

## Recommendations – Policies and Practices

- Educating Constituents
  - 180 days and 900/990 instructional hours.
- Communication
  - Widely disseminate calendar and any changes.
  - Use PTGs and PA.
- Excused Absences
  - Review Policy JH and School Handbooks with respect to excused absences on major Religious and cultural holidays.
- Honoring the Calendar
  - Communicate Policy JH and support educators in enforcement.

# Calendar Advisory Committee

## Recommendations – Areas for Further Study

- High School Start Time
  - Adolescent sleep cycles and later school start times at CCHS.
- Virtual Snow Days
  - Strategies for use of technology and “snow bags.”
- Early Release Days
  - Parents desire consistency and regularity.
- Carlisle Public School Coordination
  - Liaison with Carlisle in calendar planning.