

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 12

MEETING OF October 13, 2021

ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION topics

- a. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar -The proposed school year calendar for 2022-2023 is attached. Comments submitted through a Google survey on the calendar are also provided. (Respondents' comments are separated by lines, and are copied from the Google forms as submitted.) The calendar will come back to the Board for action at a future meeting.
- b. Board travel budget - A revision of the Board budget will be required to fund travel, including to the upcoming November annual conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards.
- c. Proficiency rate on student assessments



## 2022-23 Calendar Feedback

The Google form survey asked:  
“What feedback do you have for the proposed 22-23 KGBSD calendar?”

Following are the responses that were received. (A line separates each individual survey response.)

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Looks good

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It looks good to me.

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I don't love the start of Christmas break. Would rather not go back to school the Monday and Tuesday of that week.

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I am concerned about the Wednesday-Wednesday Winter Break. I think parents will look at that and think, “These are partial weeks, so we are going to be gone” and take their kids out the whole week before break and then stay gone the whole first week of January. I say have us finish the week before break, until the 23rd and then not return until January 10.

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Looks good. But why an inservice on 9/2

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I love that the Weds before Thanksgiving is day off again. I agree the Weds to Weds Christmas break works because of when Christmas falls. It's nice to sometimes have a few days after New Year's.  
Question: Why is there an inservice right after school starts on Sept. 2? That seems confusing for families.

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LOVE the midweek winter break dates. Seems like travel would be easier for those who travel over this break.

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Looks good to me. I like that the winter break weeks are broken up the way they are on the offset and the return. Thanks for putting in the work for the rest of us!

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I do not like that we continue to have a workday on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Staff should be able to have that day off, along with the rest of the country, to observe the holiday dedicated to a national civil rights hero.

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If we are to start another year with a “COVID PLAN” it would be very helpful if we had more than one day to discuss in our school how to carry out that plan. The strong start plan was confusing and incomplete and way too much was left up to “interpretation” by each school. It made for an uneasy start and a lot of confusion that was never resolved after school started. If there is a new plan then the district needs to give us at least 1 day that is not part of work day for PD for staff. We deserve the comfort of starting our year understanding fully how we are to navigate the everchanging landscape that is COVID mitigation. Our district seems to bend over backward to appease public opinion but does not give teachers and staff the time to fully implement their plan. To assume that we will not deal with it in a year is foolish. Please build that into your draft.

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It looks good to me.

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Looks good!

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Should start the Christmas Holiday before on a Monday or the Friday before so that we are coming back on a Monday and not in the middle of the week.

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I would like to see more Professional Development scheduled before the start of school for students. Having it broken up throughout the school year isn't really necessary anymore, as we have early release on Fridays and PD at that time.

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I would like 2 weeks staff in building before students begin like 20/21 that was super helpful! Continue with early release Friday, 3 days for Thanksgiving.

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I think the calendar looks great. Out of curiosity has there ever been discussion to give teachers/staff a work day after each extensive break such as Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Break, for planning and getting things prepared for students to return? It seems like they should be given that time instead of expecting them to take the time out of their "break" to plan and prepare. Just a thought.

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I do not think it will be an improvement to the calendar for students to have a 4-day weekend due to a staff inservice day on 9/2 and the Labor Day holiday on 9/5. I believe it would be more beneficial to students and staff for creating continuity at the beginning of the school year for the inservice day to be on 9/12 (the Monday following Labor Day) or even a later date in September.

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Looks good.

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We shouldn't have a PD day in September. The kids need consistency and they don't exactly need a break from school. Please put the PD before school starts OR in April (like we had in years past).

- The Christmas break needs to be 2 full weeks (instead of partials). With 2 full weeks, we have an extra weekend during the break so that there's an extra 2 days for travel, etc. I don't care if break starts on the 17th or 24th, but please don't do the 2 half week thing!
- Would we have Elizabeth Peratrovich Day off? I hope not! I love being in school that day!
- January 16 should NOT be a work day for elementary! We should either be in school or out, but not a work day.
- Thank you for all the effort you put into this calendar! Although I disagree with some choices, I really appreciate the time you put into it.

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I have no problem with this calendar, apart from its similarity to this and prior year's calendars -we have an extreme and costly lack of dedicated professional development time 1) before school starts in the fall, and 2) throughout the year. We can't expect to support our students and staff to all of our greatest potential with calendars that are unusually slim on PD time -particularly with a prevailing hyper-protectiveness around the length of the contractual work day. This would be feedback even outside of year 2 of a pandemic, but it's also never been more needed. It's a difficult problem to solve, and one that will require additional expenditures, but it's an investment \in our schools and communities futures we cannot afford to continue passing up. TIME FOR A CHANGE, KGBSD! Investing in our staff IS investing in our students and we simply don't have time to do everything that's necessary to repair what is broken; to grow what is planted; and realize a potential that we All deserve. Thanks for asking.

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Move spring break to middle of April 11-15? Move Sped summer school to 1 week later.

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I prefer for early release to be on a day other than Friday.

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I think it looks really reasonable. Love the midweek start to Christmas break so they don't end up in school right up to Christmas Eve. Also love the June 1 end date.

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Rework calendar so that the first week consists of one or two work days and three teacher in-service days. This could be achieved by eliminating the in-service day on Friday September 2 and move that to August 25. August 26 should be a workday. I realize there might be some contractual issues with number of student days and teacher days; however, that could be covered in an MOU. Ideally teachers should have one full work week in their classrooms and at school before the students arrive. It is so hard to start the school year with only two in-service days and one work day. We barely have enough time to fit in all the mandated trainings and information into two in-service days. With only two days: How do building admin set goals with staff? How do new staff get to know the school and colleagues? Admin return two weeks before the rest of the staff. Admin generally starts sending emails and making plans at this time to staff who are still technically on vacation. As a result many teachers actually start working for free - due to not wanting to ignore their administrator's emails. Also, I've heard that many Admin feel rushed during this two weeks to get all the preparations made. So if two weeks is not enough time for admin to start the year, then imagine how teachers feel with only getting three days! Why? One full week is vital to ensuring staff have enough time to set up classrooms, prepare lessons, collaborate with colleagues, learn new technology and new procedures, etc. Thank you.

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For the Christmas break that is the wonkiest break schedule I have ever seen.

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The calendar is unclear as to the status of Elizabeth Peratrovich day. Is it a holiday? Work day? Just labeled?

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I think it is just fine.

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I would love to see the kids start back after Labor Day and go to school further into June. Many kids are still involved in activities through the month of June and going back early September would give kids more work time when the college kids are gone.

-I really like the idea of Christmas break going Wednesday to Wednesday. I think this would definitely help out any families traveling over break.

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Looks good!

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day should be a holiday for everyone. That teacher/staff workday should be moved to the end of the year.

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Would love to be able to take the whole week off for Thanksgiving.

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I think it is great, late in August gives up time for August fishing and hunting and berries, 3 days at Thanksgiving is important and 2 weeks Christmas, and the extra day at spring break because we travel. Thank you

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Veteran's day as a holiday may result in low attendance on Fridays since the holiday is always on a Thursday. The last Monday and Tuesday before winter break may also be low-attendance days since students and staff will try to extend the break over another weekend.

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Looks great !

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A work of genius!!!! Thank you to everyone who worked on it !

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More holidays. :)

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Thanksgiving Week off.

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I'd like to see us start August 29th, with inservice, training and work days all that week. New teachers to the district need more technology, powerschool, and canvas trainings and time to build their courses before school starts. Incorporate the Sept 1 day into that week. First day for Students on Tuesday after Labor Day. Families will like that. The full week off before Xmas, absolutely ridiculous to go Wednesday-Wednesday. Maybe instead of Veteran's day Nov 11, we just have the full week off at Thanksgiving, so many travel that week anyway, and TSAS and Charter take that week off as well. Change Spring Break to either the week before or after, check and make sure it's not the same weekend as Regional Basketball Tournament. Many of those families would love to travel in March and can't because of that big event always running into spring break. We don't need to have the longest school year in the state. How many days are we required to have? You have many families that are spending the end of summer subsistence fishing, hunting, gathering and working seasonal jobs. They appreciate the extra week.

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School starts the day after Labor Day. I also think the soft start with 50% is a nice way to get to know students in a smaller setting.

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Looks good, except that I prefer a later start. We have a difficult time finding paras in August when they are still working at their summer jobs in the midst of a busy tourist season.

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What is with the December holiday? Dec 21st to Jan 3? Mid week to mid week? Remove the coloring from the weekend holiday's looks to busy and confusing. Can admin asst days be added?

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Don't start winter break in the middle of a week. I would rather work on Veteran's Day and come back to work on the 3rd of January. Start winter break on Saturday Dec. 17th.

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I like how you started Christmas break on the 21st of December so that we don't come back until January 4th...it will be so nice to have a couple days after New Year's. I also think families are going to love the 4 day weekend in September. Smart move putting that Inservice day on the Friday before Labor day:)

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How about observing national holidays and not taking so many days for useless in-service? How about starting just a LITTLE bit early in August so we can end in May?

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In addition to time to set up your classroom, teachers should get time to spend on new technology at the beginning of the year. Each year, it's a lot of different programs or new versions of old programs and it takes a lot of time to learn it all and for that reason, many don't.

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Scheduling the PD day on 9/2 is too close to the beginning of the school year. So nice to see that we have Veterans Day off. We should have MLK day off instead of a workday. (Thanks for your time)

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Request more PD days on the front end, before students start. Also, is EP day a holiday or just being 'recognized' on our calendar?

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Thanks for your time. I like the draft as is.

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I absolutely do NOT like the winter break!! I would much rather have the three weekends, so we could have December 16 be our last day and come back Tuesday, January 3. I would be willing to have the last work day of the year on a Saturday (June 3) or the following Monday (June 5) to make up for the extra winter break day.  
-The way that the proposed calendar is, ANYONE who wishes to travel is impacted because there are 2 weekends of break instead of three weekends. :(  
-Please consider changing this.

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Wondering why we have an inservice so close to the beginning of the school year. It has been really frustrating this year to be three weeks into school and still not have had a full week of classes. Difficult to build any momentum. And this is a long shot I know, but I would love to start earlier in August and finish earlier in May.

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August work day could be the first working day. I think this makes more sense coming back from summer.  
-Parent conferences could be when the TRIMESTER ends in November and not October. They always feel too early in the year.

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It is the same as the current year calendar. No improvements. Why do we have Veterans Day and Elizabeth P Day out of school? A middle of the week day off interrupts the flow of the work week.

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Please start school 2 days earlier so we can have the whole week of Thanksgiving off, or split the difference and have a day at the beginning and a day at the end of the year.

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None at this time.

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Looks great!

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I don't think the professional development should be in September-if it's for teachers then it should be in the Spring, so teachers have time to implement that info into their plans for the following year. As a parent it's also a stressful time of trying to get into routines and since school has just started, and we have Labor Day, it makes things more difficult. I think Winter Break should be two days longer, adding time to the end of what's scheduled can help give families and staff more time to get back and settled after potentially traveling.

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Please change the Christmas holiday. I do not understand the times you chose.

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There are only 177 students day. Have staff professional development days been factored in to this calendar? Considering that Alaska is 49th place when it comes to education, maybe the kids need to be in school longer? My child tested below proficient on every category on the PEAKS test. I am to the point of pulling my child out of the school district because it's not serving it's purpose.

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Looks great!

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Looks good to me.

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It would have been better to have the calendar confirmed prior to the start of the school year.

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Having an Inservice day only four days after the start of school for students [Friday, September 2nd] is exactly what parents and community members complained about this year. Shifting it to August with the other Inservice days might be a more streamlined option. Thank you.

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Is there an inservice on September 2? If so, that seems disruptive to get students started and then have a day off so soon.

-Having school on December 19 and 20, but not on the other three days of the week invites people to take the whole week off.

-Thank you for having a holiday the day before Thanksgiving.

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I would list holidays that are not days off school in a separate section-not highlighted because it is confusing to note the holiday but not have it off from school.

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Our spring break is so much earlier than out of town friends and family. Mid March in Ketchikan is not even remotely spring. Would love to see it be a couple of weeks later.

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August late start is important to our family and most Alaskan's because of subsistence, so I like the start date.

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I hear there is a statewide STEAM Conference in Juneau that was postponed from this fall and it will now take place October 14-15. Since this conference is only held every two years and only comes around to Southeast every six years, it would be very good for the District to hold that date open for teachers to attend. It will have a strong cultural and place-based theme and include some nationally known keynote speakers. Since math is a priority in the District and there are new Science Standards for Alaska, this would be an excellent opportunity for all elementary teachers and elementary or secondary science, math, technology, art, and social studies teachers. Keeping that Friday date open as an in-service would let many teachers tap into it without having to write lesson plans. Perhaps October the Thursday could be parent conferences and teachers who would like to go to Juneau Thursday evening could do some of their conferences in the evening a day or two before that. If you need more information, contact Ted Wilson in Juneau School District. Thank you. Science really matters.

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I'd like see parent conferences at the elementary level move to the end of the trimester rather than mid trimester.

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Having winter break start and end in the middle of the week will be a challenge for finding care.

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I don't understand why you would start and end Winter break in the middle of the week. It seems like that would be more difficult for working parents to manage and create unnecessary transitions and wonkiness for students.

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Looks good.

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I would prefer that school started after Labor Day and extended another week into June.

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