

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Committee Notes
February 10, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Smith, Member
Dennis Weldon, Member
Jerel Wohl, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Beth Darcy
Paul Faulkner
Glenn Schloeffel

Dr. David Weitzel
Dr. David Bolton
Dr. Nancy Silvius

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sharon Collopy, Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Santacecilia, Mariann Schmidt, and Eileen Plant commented on weighting ninth grade courses.

Yvette White commented on the school start date following Labor Day. Ann Senior and Lisa Bamford declined to comment although previously registered, saying they agreed with Yvette White's comments.

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

There were no changes

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Proposed School Calendar for 2016-2017—A board member asked why we are concerned with the ending date for the school year and responses were: college summer sessions begins for graduates, summer jobs begin for students and college orientation days are scheduled. A board member mentioned the contract issue with the teachers' union which states there will be 184 student days and also that the starting date before/after Labor Day is regulated by Board policy. Board members expressed varying opinions: prefer the calendar as originally submitted by Superintendent Weitzel because it has students in mind, placing emphasis on students' and their college needs; prefer the calendar's starting date because it has a shorter first week of school; and questioned the benefit of days beyond 180, whether 182, 183, 184. Dr. Weitzel stated that the extra 4 days are not about test scores. However, there is research that indicates the correlation between time on task, time spent with a quality teacher and their positive impact on student achievement. Others points regarding the calendar which were raised: a Spring Break, setting graduation day, 'forgiving' four snow days in a 184-day calendar; time before school starts for teachers to set up rooms, and common exam days. Board members questioned whether the approved calendar could affect present negotiations with various bargaining units. Dr. Weitzel will present a proposed calendar at the February 23, 2016 School Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting is March 9, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Notes submitted by Dr. Nancy Silvius, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education