

#### CONTINUATION OF SUMMARY EXPLANATION AND BACKGROUND

At the October 22, 2019 School Board Workshop, staff outlined the Calendar Development Process, presented three (3) 2020-2021 Proposed School/Personnel Calendar Options, discussed Thursday, May 13, 2021 being considered as a day off and requested School Board feedback on a preferred calendar option. Majority of the feedback secured from stakeholder groups (e.g., via calendar presentations, via surveys, etc.,) and School Board Members were in support of **Proposed Calendar Option #2A**, which included a Mid-Week (Wednesday) School Start and Schools Closed for the week of Thanksgiving.

Additionally, at the School Board Workshop, School Board Members made inquiry regarding criteria utilized to identify dates a school district can take as “holidays” or a “day off”. Subsequently, the Office of the General Counsel provided written governance via “Memorandum on Religious Holidays”. Specifically, the Memorandum addresses there are no Florida Laws that prescribe the exact dates a school district should have as a day off. The existing statutes provides some parameters, for example, District School Boards may authorize a maximum of six (6) legal paid holidays which shall apply to the total annual number of required days of service adopted by the Board. Other laws exist which designate certain days as official Federal and State holidays, however, they serve as guidelines and do not have to be followed by district school boards. Lastly, the General Counsel’s memorandum outlines the following:

“for purposes of Broward County Public Schools, Policy 6001, the utilization of the Superintendent’s School Calendar Committee offers a secular approach to the recommendation of days off which may include days which coincide with religious holidays. The Committee is representative, through its membership, of the requests of the majority of stake holders in the District. The recommendation for the 2020-2021 school year is for Calendar Option 2A. This recommendation, if approved by the Board, provides the district with a neutral approach to the selection of days off.” ***(General Counsel – November 5, 2019, Memorandum on Religious Holidays)***

#### **Key Highlights of Calendar Option #2A include:**

- Serves as a viable option with a Mid-Week (Wednesday) start;
- Midweek start will allow days for teachers and students to settle and organize;
- Students will attend all classes (inclusive of Block Schedules) and have a fresh start on the following Monday;
- Schools closed for the week of Thanksgiving (Students and Teachers off); and
- Exams will occur prior to Winter Break.

In addition, the Proposed School/Personnel Calendar reflects six (6) paid holidays, ten (10) employee planning days and six (6) early release days. The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 19, 2020 and the last day of school is Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Additional Calendar Highlights include:

- Semester Breakdown: 82 school days/98 school days;
- Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020;
- Thanksgiving Break: Monday, November 23, 2020 through Friday, November 27, 2020;
- Winter Break: Monday, December 21, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021; and
- Spring Break: Monday, March 22, 2021 through Friday, March 26, 2021.

The proposed calendar option satisfies the bona fide instructional time requirements, pursuant to Section 1003.436(1), F.S., Definition of High School Credit.

Following Board Approval of the 2020-2021 School/Personnel Calendar, staff, in conjunction with the Superintendent’s Calendar Committee, will develop the corresponding 2020-2021 Personnel Calendars and Summer Term Calendars 2021-2022 for Community Schools and Technical Colleges. It is anticipated these calendars will be presented for Board Approval in March 2020.