

North Vancouver School District School Calendar Steering Group

February 24, 2014 – Meeting Summary Notes

Facilitator: Dorli Duffy

Steering Group Members

In Attendance:

Trustee Christie Sacre
Trustee Cyndi Gerlach
Karen Nordquist – NVPAC
Kathy Owens – NVPAC
Deb Wanner – NoVA - Elem
Maureen Stanger – NoVA - Sec
Greg Hockley – NoVA – Sec
Joyce Griffiths – CUPE
Carol Nordby – CUPE
Mark Jefferson – District Staff – Assistant Superintendent
Pius Ryan – District Staff – Assistant Superintendent
Scott Stanley – District Staff – Director of Human Resources
Xenia O'Brien – District Staff – Human Resources
Michael Kee – District Staff – Human Resources
Greg Milner – District Staff – Admin Services
Dan Storms – NVT
Jane Blaiklock - NVT
Kelly La Roue – NoVA - Elem
Jana Ghimire – Student

1.0 Objectives

On February 24, 2014, the North Vancouver School District School Calendar Steering Group (SCSG) held their fourth meeting of the 2013/14 school year at the NVSD Education Services Centre. The meeting objectives were to:

- Review feedback from the public review period regarding the draft 2014/15 calendars
- Receive an update regarding NVSD discussions with partners
- Recommend a 2014/15 School Calendar to the Board of Trustees
- Clarify next steps including additional information needs and subsequent meetings

This document provides a brief summary of discussions held during the meeting. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation from the February 24, 2014 meeting is posted on the North Vancouver School District's website [[Link](#)].

2.0 Review of public feedback regarding the draft 2014/15 calendars

Following the January 13, 2014 School Calendar Steering Group meeting, the Board of Education elected to make three calendar options available for public comment: Option A (2-week spring break Mar 23-Apr 2, and November 10 long weekend), Option C (1 week spring break Mar 16-20, and Nov 10 long weekend) and Option D (2 week spring break Mar 9-20, and Nov 10 long weekend).

The three proposed calendars were publicized via the NVSD website and SchoolConnects messages for a 30-day public comment period. Comments from 485 respondents were received and shared with members of the School Calendar Steering Group and Trustees.

Steering Group members made the following general observations regarding the public comments:

- Community issues were the same as those the Steering Group has been discussing for the past several years
- Levels of support for various options were consistent with those found in previous surveys regarding school calendars
- There is an appetite for a longer (e.g., 3-year) calendar to facilitate planning

3.0 NVSD Update on discussions with partners

Mark Jefferson noted that recent communications between the NVSD and the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTa) had resulted in an agreement to support Option D for the 2014/15 School Calendar year. As a result, Option D (attached as Appendix A) was presented as a Proposed Option for discussion by the SCSG.

4.0 Discussion of SCSG recommendation for 2014/15 School Calendar

While Steering Group members were unanimous in their support of Proposed Option D for the 2014/15 School Calendar, they also wished to recommend measures to mitigate the impact of this proposed calendar in two areas:

- The impact of a 2-week Spring Break on some working families needing additional child care, and
- The impact of an increased number of breaks, statutory holidays and Professional Days in Term 3 on secondary students

Steering Group members agreed to make the following recommendations regarding the 2014/15 School Calendar:

1. That the Board of Education approve Proposed Option D for the 2014/15 school calendar year.
2. That the Board of Education seek to find sufficient budget to support up to three school sites, for at least one week of Spring Break, to provide an activity-based

environment for children of working families who need additional assistance with child care.

3. That the North Vancouver Secondary Administrators (NOVA) and teachers work together to address the impact of numerous breaks at the start of Term 3 on the learning experience of secondary students.

5.0 Planning for 3-year School Calendar

Beginning in the spring, NVSD Directors of Instruction will be collecting feedback from all staff regarding their experience with collaboration time during the 2013/14 school year. Mark Jefferson proposed that a sub-group of the SCSG meet in May or June, 2014, to discuss partner information requests regarding collaboration time. The following Steering Group members volunteered to participate on the sub-group:

- Trustee Christie Sacre or Trustee Cyndi Gerlach
- Karen Nordquist or Kathy Owens – NVPAC
- Deb Wanner – NoVA - Elementary
- Maureen Stanger or Greg Hockley – NoVA – Secondary
- Joyce Griffiths or Carol Nordby – CUPE
- Xenia O'Brien – District Staff – Human Resources
- Dan Storms or alternate – NVTa
- Jana Ghimire or alternate – Student

The full School Calendar Steering Group will meet in the fall to discuss findings regarding collaboration time.

Steering Group members requested that the following information be brought to the fall meeting in preparation for planning a 3-year calendar (2015/16, 2016/7, 2017/18):

- Results of collaboration time review
- Calendar decisions by other school districts
- Easter dates and possible Spring break dates for the next 3 years
- Any confirmed sports dates
- Clarity on the potential scope of SCSG discussions in relation to partner/NVSD agreements

6.0 Summary of Next Steps

- Develop meeting summary - circulate to Steering Group and post on website
- Steering Group members to communicate progress to constituencies
- March 11, 2014 Public Board Meeting
 - Board decision on 2014-15 School Calendar

- Next Meeting – Spring, 2014 (Date to be confirmed) – Planning for 3-year School Calendar (2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18)
 - 3 Year Calendar
 - Collaboration Time Review
 - Other

Next Meeting

The objectives of the Spring, 2014 School Calendar Steering Group sub-group meeting (Date to be confirmed) will include:

- Confirm information requests regarding collaboration time review
- Confirm additional information requests regarding planning for a 3-year calendar
- Clarify next steps including additional information needs, homework and subsequent meetings

Steering Group members are reminded that you have been asked to serve as representatives of your schools, group or organization. Please strive to be inclusive of the array of perspectives within your constituency when circulating information and participating in Steering Group discussions.

APPENDIX A

2014-15 SCHOOL CALENDAR - Proposed Option D

181 Instructional Days, 2 Week Spring Break (9-20), November Long Weekend, June 29 Admin Day

AUGUST 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

SEPTEMBER 2014						
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28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2014						
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NOVEMBER 2014						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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DECEMBER 2014						
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JANUARY 2015						
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FEBRUARY 2015						
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MARCH 2015						
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APRIL 2015						
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MAY 2015						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2015						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

2*	1ST DAY OF SCHOOL IS PARTIAL DAY
	STAT HOLIDAY
	NO SCHOOL
	WINTER BREAK (2 weeks)
	SPRING BREAK (2 weeks)
	DISTRICT (NVTA) PRO D DAY (3) <i>Sample Dates for illustration only</i>
	SCHOOL-BASED PRO D DAY (2) <i>Sample Dates for illustration only</i>
	NVSD CURRIC IMPL DAY (1)
	STAFF COLLAB X 7
	ADMIN DAY

THIS IS 1 of 3 PROPOSED CALENDAR OPTIONS