

# School Calendar Steering Group

Meeting #4

February 12, 2013



# Meeting Objectives

- Review findings from January 24 representatives meeting
- Review calendar options and public survey questions and make recommendations to Board of Education for February 19, 2013 Board Meeting
- Clarify next steps including additional information needs, homework and subsequent meetings



# Proposed Agenda

- Discussion of findings from January 24 meeting
- Discussion of calendar options for public survey
- Discussion of public survey questions



# A few guidelines

We will work best if we:

- Honour one voice at a time
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Listen
- Try to be succinct
- Make space for others to participate
- Stay on topic and on time
- Make sure your words are recorded



# January 24 Meeting Participants

Partner Group	Results	N= 69
Parents	25%	17
Teachers	17%	12
Students	16%	11
Support Staff	7%	5
Principal/VP	28%	19
Exempt Staff	6%	4
Community Member	1%	1

Source: January 24, 2013 School Calendar Survey



# Breakout Group Discussion #1: Issues, Needs and Considerations

- Principles and Assumptions
  - Desire for Consistency
    - Between schools and Families of Schools
    - Between school districts
    - With program providers
    - With post-secondary institutions



# Breakout Group Discussion #1: Issues, Needs and Considerations

- Desire for research to inform decision-making
  - Feedback from those already experimenting with “balanced calendars”
  - Research on decision-making based on needs of students
  - Evidence based research from Europe and elsewhere



# Breakout Group Discussion #1: (continued)

- Issues, Needs and Considerations
  - Student employment
  - Opportunities for collaboration
  - Childcare – cost and availability
  - Program providers – coordination and communication
  - Athletics schedules
  - Staff/ Families with children in other districts





# Breakout Group Discussion #1: (continued)

- Issues, Needs and Considerations (cont.)
  - Desire for long term plan
  - Considerations regarding length of breaks
  - Impact on special needs students
  - Weather considerations
  - Facilities implications



# Breakout Group Discussion #1: (continued)

- Issues, Needs and Considerations (cont.)
  - Collective Agreements and contract arrangements
  - School Size and variability of impact of calendar changes
  - Considerations regarding school day schedule
  - Financial implication of various calendar models



# Breakout Group Discussion #2:

## Blue Sky Exercise

- **Question:** What is the ideal calendar structure from your perspective?
  - What is most important to you about how the calendar is structured?
  - Consider the school day, school week, school year, and holidays and breaks



# Breakout Group Discussion #3:

## Calendar Options

- **Question:** What are the strengths and weaknesses of each sample calendar option?
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each calendar proposal
- Complete the individual survey to indicate your preferences



# 2013-14 PROPOSAL A (Status Quo, 2 Week Spring Break)

NOTE: Dates for School ProD and Curriculum Impl Days are provided for illustrative purposes and have not yet been set

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- STAT HOLIDAY
- WINTER BREAK
- SPRING BREAK
- DISTRICT PRO D DAY (3)  
Dates confirmed
- SCHOOL PRO D DAY (2)  
Sample dates for illustration only
- CURRICULUM IMPL DAY (1)  
Sample date for illustration only
- ADMIN DAY



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal A - Findings

## ➤ Strengths

- Familiarity
- Ease due to consistency with current practice
- Concurrence of summer break and good weather
- Opportunities for student summer employment
- Like the 2 week Spring Break



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal A - Findings

## ➤ Weaknesses

- Long stretches between breaks leads to burn out
- Long summer
- Lack of collaboration
- Impact on TOC opportunities and CUPE work
- Lack of alignment with educational trends

## ➤ Amendments

- Add Collaboration time
- Increase Number of Breaks
- Move Curriculum Implementation Days
- Move Pro-D Days
- Change School Year Start Date



# 2013-14 PROPOSAL B (Status Quo, 2 Week Spring Break plus Teacher Collab Time)

NOTE: Dates for School ProD and Curriculum Impl Days are provided for illustrative purposes and have not yet been set

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MAY 2014						
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JUNE 2014						
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- STAT HOLIDAY
- WINTER BREAK
- SPRING BREAK
- DISTRICT PRO D DAY (3)  
Dates confirmed
- SCHOOL PRO D DAY (2)  
(Sample dates for illustration only)
- CURRICULUM IMPL DAY  
(Sample date for illustration only)
- LATE START ELEM (COLLAB)
- LATE START SEC (COLLAB)
- ADMIN DAY





# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal B - Findings

## ➤ Strengths

- Collaboration time
- Breaks are familiar
- Like occasional late starts

## ➤ Weaknesses

- Uncertainty about timing of collaboration for elementary and secondary
- Challenge for parents to manage change in start times (or end times)
- Child care during collaboration time
- Uncertainty re: benefits of collaboration
- Collaboration time is not long enough



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal B – Findings (cont.)

- Weaknesses (continued)
  - Collaboration time vsv. instructional time
  - Lack of supervision during collaboration time
  - Impact on special needs students
  - Not following education trends to meet needs of learners
  
- Amendments
  - Increase/decrease frequency of collaboration time
  - Provide supervision for students during collaboration time
  - Align or don't align collaboration time between elementary and secondary school



# 2013-14 PROPOSAL C (Late Aug Start, 2 Week Spring Break, 3 Additional Vacation Days)

NOTE: Dates for School ProD and Curriculum Impl Days are provided for illustrative purposes and have not yet been set

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OCTOBER 2013						
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NOVEMBER 2013						
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DECEMBER 2013						
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JUNE 2014						
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- STAT HOLIDAY
- WINTER BREAK
- SPRING BREAK
- VACATION DAY
- DISTRICT PRO D DAY (3)  
Dates confirmed
- SCHOOL PRO D DAY (2)  
(Sample dates for illustration only)
- CURRICULUM IMPL DAY  
(Sample date for illustration only)
- ADMIN DAY



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal C - Findings

## ➤ Strengths

- More frequent breaks better for health and stress

## ➤ Weaknesses

- August days would conflict with family holidays and might not be well utilized
- Lack of collaboration time
- Teachers and administrative staff may not like this
- August start interferes with PNE
- Don't like Tuesday holidays
- Challenges for child care



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal C – Findings (cont.)

- Amendments
  - Make the August days a full week
  - Eliminate August days
  - Add collaboration time



# 2013-14 PROPOSAL D (Balanced Year with 3 Week Winter Break and 3 Week Spring Break)

NOTE: Dates for School ProD and Curriculum Impl Days are provided for illustrative purposes and have not yet been set

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SEPTEMBER 2013						
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OCTOBER 2013						
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NOVEMBER 2013						
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DECEMBER 2013						
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APRIL 2014						
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MAY 2014						
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JUNE 2014						
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- STAT HOLIDAY
- WINTER BREAK
- SPRING BREAK
- DISTRICT PRO D DAY (3)  
Dates confirmed
- SCHOOL PRO D DAY (2)  
(Sample dates for illustration only)
- CURRICULUM IMPL DAY  
(Sample date for illustration only)
- ADMIN DAY



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal D - Findings

## ➤ Strengths

- Like the three week breaks
- Like the full week in August

## ➤ Weaknesses

- Three week breaks are too long
- Uncertain weather during holiday time
- No collaboration time
- Child care implications
- Teaching in August – too hot
- Still have long stretches between breaks
- Collaboration time is not long enough



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal D – Findings (cont.)

- Amendments
  - Redistribute breaks/ Add a break before Christmas
  - Start in September and go into July for both weather and contract purposes
  - Add some long weekends





# 2013-14 PROPOSAL E (Balanced Year-Round)

NOTE: Dates for School ProD and Curriculum Impl Days are provided for illustrative purposes and have not yet been set

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SEPTEMBER 2013						
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OCTOBER 2013						
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DECEMBER 2013						
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APRIL 2014						
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MAY 2014						
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JUNE 2014						
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-  STAT HOLIDAY
-  WINTER BREAK
-  SPRING BREAK
-  SUMMER BREAK
-  DISTRICT PRO D DAY (3)  
Dates confirmed
-  SCHOOL PRO D DAY (2)  
Sample dates for illustration only
-  CURRIC IMPL DAY (1)  
Sample date for illustration only
-  ADMIN DAY



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal E - Findings

## ➤ Strengths

- Helps struggling students, improve learning
- Clear chunks of time off helps with family vacation planning
- Health and wellness

## ➤ Weaknesses

- Significant impact
- Loss of learning during breaks
- Significant change
- Impact on family vacations
- Potential for lack of consistency across districts



# Breakout Group Discussion #3: Proposal E – Findings (cont.)

## ➤ Weaknesses

- Loss of opportunities for student employment
- Long stretches between breaks
- No collaboration time
- Weather and climate considerations

## ➤ Amendments

- Add collaboration time



# School Calendar Survey Additional Results

- Support for 3 & 4 Day Weekends
  - in the 2013/14 calendar (83%)
  - In future calendars (84%),
- Support for Two Week Winter Breaks
  - in the 2013/14 calendar (96%)
  - In future calendars (91%),
- Support for Two Week Spring Breaks
  - in the 2013/14 calendar (90%)
  - In future calendars (86%),



# School Calendar Survey

## Additional Results (continued)

### Collaboration Time (continued)

- Support for calendar options that create collaboration time during the school day (98%)
- Frequency of Collaboration Time
  - Once a month (43%)
  - Twice a month (33%)
  - Once a week (21%)



# School Calendar Survey Additional Results (cont.)

## Collaboration Time (cont.)

- Support for Collaboration Time
  - In the morning, resulting in a late start for students (82%)
  
- Support for possible calendar options that result in students and staff attending school and work during either/both of the following:
  - A limited number of days in the last week of August (3-5 days) (50/50)
  - A limited number of days in the beginning of July (3-5 days) (54%)



# February 12 Meeting Discussion Questions

## ➤ Challenge:

- High level of support for teacher collaboration time
- Mixed (50/50) support for limited number of days in late August or early July

## ➤ Question:

- Where do we find the time for collaboration time?



# February 12 Meeting

## Discussion Questions (continued)

- Which calendar options should be included in the Public Survey?
  - Proposal A – Status Quo?
  - Proposal B – Status Quo, Two Week Spring Break plus Teacher Collaboration Time?
  - Proposal with a one week Winter/Spring Break Option?
  - Others? Modifications?





# February 12 Meeting Discussion Questions (cont.)

- Do the Public Survey questions require revisions?



# Next Steps ...

- Finalize January 24 meeting summary - post on website
- Steering Group members to communicate progress to constituencies
- Steering Group provides recommendations regarding public survey to Board of Education for February 19, 2013 Board Meeting



## ... Next Steps

- Public Survey – February 20-March 2
- Steering Group reviews survey results and provides final recommendations to Board of Education
- March 12, 2013 Board of Education – Board makes final decision re School Calendar for 2013-14

Closing / Thank you!



## March 6, 2013 SCSG Meeting

- Review Survey findings (February 20-March 2, 2013)
- Review calendar options and public survey questions and make recommendations to Board of Education for March 12, 2013 Board Meeting
- Clarify next steps including additional information needs, homework and subsequent meetings for May 2013 for Calendars for the 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years

