

MINUTES OF THE
Special Meeting of the
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Administrative Office
January 3, 2007
2:00 p.m.

**Minutes Approved
February 13, 2007**

Present were:

Trustees:

Connie Wennhold	President
Karen Chessell	Member
Sharla Hales	Member
Keith Roman	Member
Cynthia Trigg	Member

Personnel:

Rich Alexander	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
----------------	---

Sharla Hales was present as a Board member, but did not vote, as she was not a Calendar Committee member.

1. Call to Order

Board President, Connie Wennhold, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

- A. Mr. Roman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Mrs. Trigg made a motion to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Roman.

Mrs. Wennhold called for public comment on the adoption of the agenda. There was none.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote of 4/0.

Mrs. Wennhold informed the public that public comment on the calendar issue would be directly following the history of this issue to date, to be reported by Mr. Alexander. Anyone wishing to comment on any other issues was to address the Board at 2:45 p.m. during the agendized public comment time.

2. Information and Discussion

2-A. Calendar Committee

Mr. Alexander began by reviewing letters and expressing opinions received in writing from individuals on the calendar selection. Next, the history of the Calendar Committee was stated, including the reason for the committee convening on this date: That, due to a recommendation of the Board at the December meeting, the committee was to obtain further information in order to make the best decision for student achievement.

Mr. Alexander reviewed testing comparisons between schools and Districts concluding that there was no evidence of a particular calendar increasing student test scores.

Mrs. Wennhold called for public comment on the selection of the District calendar.

Various issues relating to the selection of a single calendar, as well as, two calendars, one for elementary and one for secondary, were brought forth by administrators, elementary and secondary teachers. Issues included:

- 1) Preference of either one or two calendars
- 2) Criteria for determining the selection
- 3) School start and end dates
- 4) Additional expense incurred should two calendars be selected
- 5) Effects of longer breaks on elementary students, including special education and English Language Learners
- 6) Timeliness of high stakes testing
- 7) Benefits of secondary schools ending the first semester prior to winter break and school start/end dates with discrepancies in the two semesters

Mr. Alexander stated the calendar recommendation made by the Committee, to the Board, at the December meeting was a single calendar, viewed as a compromise, that would assist families with vacations, as well as, provide the best instructional timeframe, as a 10/2/2 or 11/2/1. This calendar equated to ten weeks off for summer, and two weeks off for both winter and spring breaks or eleven weeks off for summer, two weeks for winter and one week for spring.

Board members reviewed a variety of issues relating to the calendar selection.

Mr. Roman made a motion to recommend to the Board to accept the 11/2/1 calendar with the flexibility of ending the first semester before the Christmas vacation.

Discussion ensued as to the timeframes and goals pertaining to shortening of the first semester. The motion died for lack of action being taken.

Mrs. Trigg made a motion that the Committee presents the original recommendation to the Board of the 11/2/1 calendar with a start date of August 27, 2007 for secondary, and an elementary starting date of August 22, 2007, seconded by Mr. Roman.

Motion carried 3/1, Mrs. Chessell, nay.

Public Comment

Mrs. Wennhold called for public comment. There was none.

3. Executive Session

An Executive Session was not held.

4. Adjournment

Mr. Roman made a motion to adjourn at 3:55 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Chessell.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote 4/0.

Submitted by,

Carolyn Moore
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:

Clerk of the Board

Note: Upon approval by the Board of Trustees in a public meeting, these minutes become the official minutes of the meeting held on the above date. Board minutes are kept on a permanent basis and are available for public review in the office of the Superintendent.