



To: Board of Education

From: Superintendent, Jan Unwin

**Re: 2012 – 2013 DISTRICT LOCAL
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Date: April 25, 2012
(Public Board Meeting)

Decision

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

For the current school year 2011/12, School District 42 implemented a District-wide Local School Calendar and Bell Schedules that aligned all non instructional days, school start and stop times, and added ten minutes to every instructional day, allowing for 6 additional days not in session.

Senior Team once again is recommending the implementation of a District Local School Calendar for 2012/2013 that would see six (6) fewer days of instruction than what would be included in the Ministry's Standard School Calendar. The recommended District Local School Calendar Appendix A (1) includes:

- Two (2) altered calendar days to be placed on **Friday, November 9, 2012** to connect with Remembrance Day Monday, November 12, 2012, and on **Friday, January 25, 2013**.
- Four (4) altered calendar days (**Monday, March 25 to Thursday, March 28, 2013**), resulting in nine (9) days for Spring Break, extending from Monday, March 18 to Thursday, March 28, 2013 and followed directly by the Easter Holiday (Good Friday and Easter Monday).

Legislative Requirements:

The School Act (Section 77) requires a board, on or before May 31st of each school year, to adopt a school calendar for every school in its district for the following school year. The calendar must be made available to every parent of a student in each school. In accordance with the School Calendar Regulations, the board must adopt either a ***standard school calendar*** or a ***local school calendar***.

The School Act (Section 78(3.1)) states that in the event a board wishes to adopt a school calendar that differs from the standard school calendar, it must, in accordance with the regulations, consult with parents of the students enrolled in the schools affected by the proposed school calendar. Similarly, consultation must occur with representatives of the employees assigned to the affected schools prior to the adoption of the local calendar.

To approve a ***local school calendar***, a board must adopt the school calendar at a meeting that is open to the public. At least a month before the meeting, the Board must give notice of the meeting and supply a copy of the proposed school calendar to the parents of students in the schools affected, and to representatives of employees assigned to the affected schools.

NB: During the current calendar consultation period, Section 78.1 of the School Act was repealed with the passage of Bill 22. Although Section 78.1 did previously ensure protection to Boards of Education from potential grievances relating to altering school calendars (including daily hours of work), our meetings with the MRTA indicate no concerns in this regard. The MRTA has provided some feedback with respect to placement of non-instructional days; that feedback is included below.

Timeline:

The timelines have been met: the Proposed Calendar has been out for public review for over one month. At this Board meeting, the Board will consider the local calendar question as discussed at the February 29, 2012 Public Board meeting.

Feedback:

Attached to this recommendation we have included the results from the survey that was posted on our School District Website since the end of February. As you will see, the overall feedback was extremely positive from all groups.

While an area of concern was the placement of all professional development days on Friday, there was overwhelming support for having all professional days the same across the district and for aligning them – if and when possible – with surrounding districts so as to offer teachers more choice in their pro d focus.

This feedback, along with conversations from our partner groups, has resulted in the following adjustments to the Calendar:

- School Growth Planning Day FROM Friday, September 21, **TO** Monday, September 24;
- Non Instructional Day FROM Friday, November 30, **TO** Monday, December 3;
- Non Instructional Day FROM Friday, May 17 **TO** Tuesday, May 21.

We feel that moving these three days from Friday to other days of the week will accommodate the feedback received from teachers who either job share or work part time. It leaves 3 of the days on Fridays, which accommodates the feedback from CUPE staff, who often do their training on Friday/Saturday. Attaching the pro d days to weekends and moving them from the middle of the week also accommodates the feedback we received from parents and students, who indicated that mid-week pro d days were inconvenient.

For this year, due to extenuating circumstances, we have been unable to collaboratively plan a convention with all the partner groups. In future years it is recommended that the Convention Planning Committee choose the date for that event and provide that date to the Superintendent well in advance of any calendar going out for consultation.

Considerations:

The Board of Education has the authority to implement a district local school calendar that varies from the Ministry's standard calendar. It is extremely important in these challenging economic times to establish a calendar that meets the needs of students, provides organization that supports learning and collaboration, and uses district resources wisely. It is also important that we continue to examine even more flexible schedules in the future in order to accommodate the diverse and changing needs of today's students.

If the Board chooses not to approve the recommended District Local School Calendar at the April 25, 2012 Public Board meeting, the district will revert back to the Standard School Calendar, which includes a one week spring break and is included as Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approves:

- The attached Local District Calendar for 2012/2013 - Appendix A (1)

Attachments: Local District Calendar - Appendix A (1)
Standard School Calendar - Appendix B
Public Survey Results

Appendix A (1)



2012 – 2013

DISTRICT LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR



School Opening Day for Students	Tuesday, September 4, 2012
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Monday, September 24, 2012</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 08, 2012
<i>Non Instructional Day (Province wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 19, 2012</i>
Altered Calendar Day	Friday, November 9, 2012
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 12, 2012
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Monday, December 3, 2012</i>
Schools Close for Winter Break	Friday, December 21, 2012
Winter Break	Monday, Dec. 24 to Friday, Jan. 4, 2013
Schools reopen after Winter Break	Monday, January 7, 2013
Altered Calendar Day	Friday, January 25, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Friday, February 15, 2013</i>
Family Day	Monday, February 18, 2013
Schools Close for Spring Break	Friday, March 15, 2013
Spring Break	Monday, March 18 to Friday, March 22, 2013
Altered Calendar Days	Monday, March 25 to Thursday, March 28, 2013
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2013
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1, 2013
Schools reopen after Spring Break	Tuesday, April 2, 2013
<i>Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)</i>	<i>Friday, April 26, 2013</i>
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Tuesday, May 21, 2013</i>
Last Day for Students	Thursday, June 27, 2013
Year-end Administrative Day	Friday, June 28, 2013
Schools Close	Friday, June 28, 2013

Days in Session: 186

Days of Instruction for students: 180

Elementary (K-7) daily schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

295 instructional minutes per day (as per School Act requirements).

Secondary (8-12) daily schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

320 instructional minutes per day (as per School Act requirements).

NB: Kanaka Creek will run their year round calendar separate from this calendar

Appendix B



2012 – 2013

STANDARD SCHOOL CALENDAR



School Opening Day for Students	Tuesday, September 4, 2012
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Monday, September 24, 2012</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 08, 2012
<i>Non Instructional Day (Province wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 19, 2012</i>
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 12, 2012
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Monday, December 3, 2012</i>
Schools Close for Winter Break	Friday, December 21, 2012
Winter Break	Monday, Dec. 24 to Friday, Jan. 4, 2013
Schools reopen after Winter Break	Monday, January 7, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (District wide)</i>	<i>Friday, February 15, 2013</i>
Family Day	Monday, February 18, 2013
Schools Close for Spring Break	Friday, March 15, 2013
Spring Break	Monday, March 18 to Friday, March 22, 2013
Schools reopen after Spring Break	Monday, March 25
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2013
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1, 2013
<i>Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)</i>	<i>Friday, April 26, 2013</i>
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2013
<i>Non Instructional Day (School Based)</i>	<i>Tuesday, May 21, 2013</i>
Last Day for Students	Thursday, June 27, 2013
Year-end Administrative Day	Friday, June 28, 2013
Schools Close	Friday, June 28, 2013

Days in Session: 186

Days of Instruction for students: 180

Elementary (K-7) daily schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

295 instructional minutes per day (as per School Act)

Secondary (8-12) daily schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. – dismissal time to be determined

320 instructional minutes per day (as per School Act)

NB: Kanaka Creek will run their year round calendar separate from this calendar



2012 -2013

Local School District Calendar

SURVEY RESULTS



2012 - 2013 Local School District Calendar Survey

From March 1, 2012 to April 12, 2012, School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows) asked teachers, students, principals, vice-principals, community members, and partner groups to provide feedback on its proposed 2012 - 2013 Local School District Calendar. Feedback was collected by means of an online survey.

The 2012 - 2013 Proposed Calendar was to include a 9-day Spring Break extending from Monday, March 18, 2013 to Thursday, March 28, 2013, followed by the Easter Holiday (Good Friday and Easter Monday). Two altered calendar days were proposed to be placed on Friday, November 9, 2012 and on January 25, 2013.

The Board of Education made its recommendation both as a cost-saving measure and as an attempt to build efficiencies across the District and among other districts. It was anticipated that the implementation of this school calendar for a second year would save the District approximately \$200,000 due to lower bus costs, lower replacement costs, common Pro D days, and fewer illness absences.

Question 1 : Demographic Overview

Of the **1,163** respondents to this survey, the demographic distribution was as follows: **64%** were parents, **21.6%** were teachers, **11.7%** were CUPE staff, **11.6%** were students, **4.9%** were community members, and **1.7%** belonged to the principal/vice-principal demographic.

Altered Calendar 2012

Please indicate the categories that best describe your involvement in School District No. 42. You may choose more than one.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Parent	63.0%	731
Student	11.6%	135
Community Member	4.9%	57
Teacher	21.6%	251
CUPE staff	11.7%	136
Principal or Vice principal	1.7%	20
Other (please specify)		17
answered question		1,161
skipped question		10

Question 2 : Statement of Preference

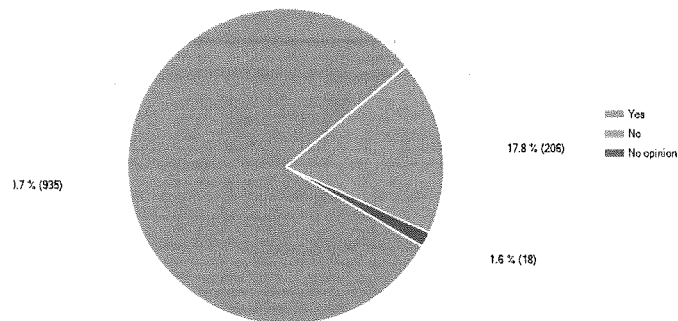
80.4% YES
17.8% NO

When asked if they were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, of the 1,163 respondents **80.4% were in favour** of the proposed local calendar, **17.8% were against**, and **1.6% indicated no preference**.

Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	80.7%	935
No	17.8%	206
No opinion	1.6%	18
answered question		1,159
skipped question		12



Question 2 Responses : Demographic Breakdown

Parents: **75%** (550 out of 733) in favour
Teachers: **92%** (229 out of 251) in favour
CUPE Staff: **78.5%** (106 out of 136) in favour
Students: **94.7%** (124 out of 135) in favour
Community Members: **75%** (42 out of 57) in favour
Principals or VPs: **95%** (19 out of 20) in favour

Parents

733 Parents responded.
550 (75%) were in favour of the proposed calendar; 159
(21.7%) were against;
17 (2.3%) no opinion.

Teachers

251 Teachers responded.
229 (92%) were in favour of the proposed calendar; 19
(7.6%) were against;
1 (.4%) no opinion.

CUPE Staff

136 CUPE staff members responded.
106 (78.5%) were in favour of the proposed calendar;
28 (20.7%) were against;
1 (.7%) no opinion.

Students

135 Students responded.
124 (94.7%) were in favour of the proposed calendar; 7
(5.3%) were against;

Community Members

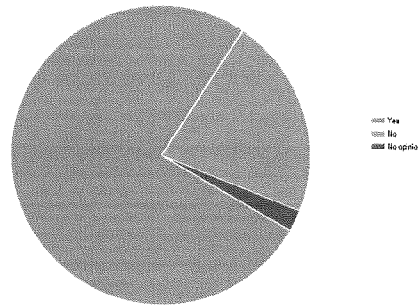
57 Community members responded.
42 (75%) were in favour of the proposed calendar; 14
(25%) were against.

Principals or Vice-Principals

20 Principals or VPs responded.
19 (95%) were in favour of the proposed calendar; 1
(5%) were against.

Parent Feedback

75% YES
21.7% NO

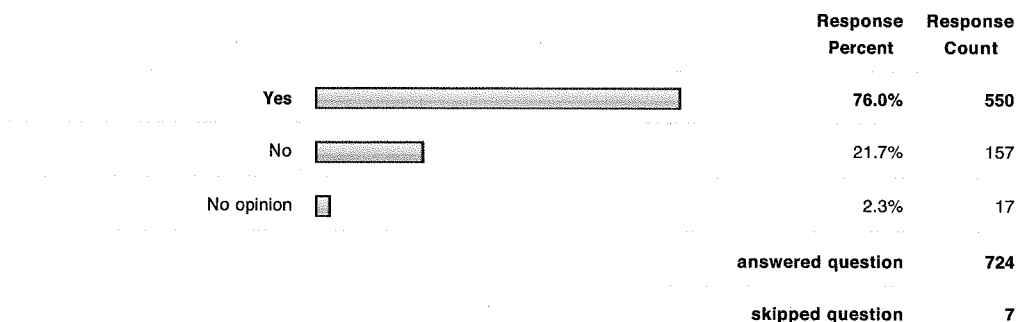


Of the 733 parents who responded, **75% (550)** were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar. Two letters were received, and that feedback was included in the comments section and in the final percentage.

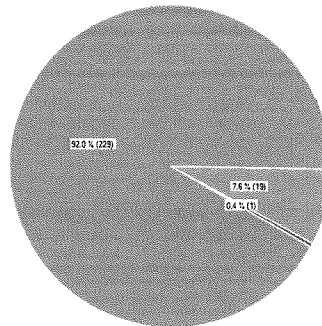
Common concern expressed: length of Spring Break.

Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?



Teacher Feedback



92% YES
7.6% NO

Of the 251 teachers who responded, **92% (229)** were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar.

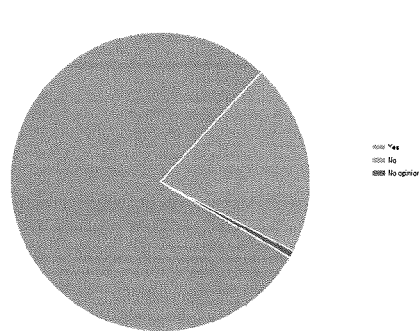
Common concern expressed: Pro D day scheduling.

Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		92.0%	229
No		7.6%	19
No opinion		0.4%	1
answered question			249
skipped question			2

CUPE Staff Feedback



78.5% YES
20.7% NO

Of the 136 CUPE Staff who responded **78.5% (106)** were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar.

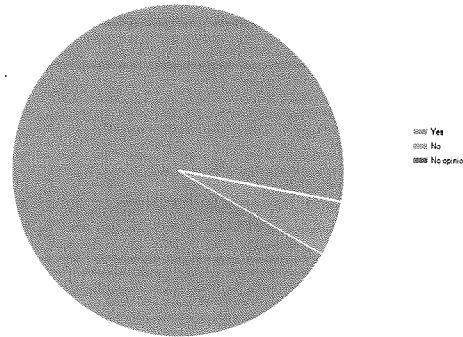
Common concern expressed: length of Spring Break.

Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	78.5%	106
No	20.7%	28
No opinion	0.7%	1
answered question		135
skipped question		1

Student Feedback



94.7% YES
5.3% NO

Of the 57 students who responded, **94.7% (124)** were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar.

Common concern expressed: no common concern expressed.

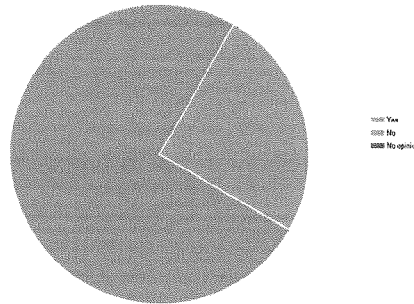
Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.7%	124
No	5.3%	7
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		131
skipped question		4

Community Feedback

75% YES
25% NO

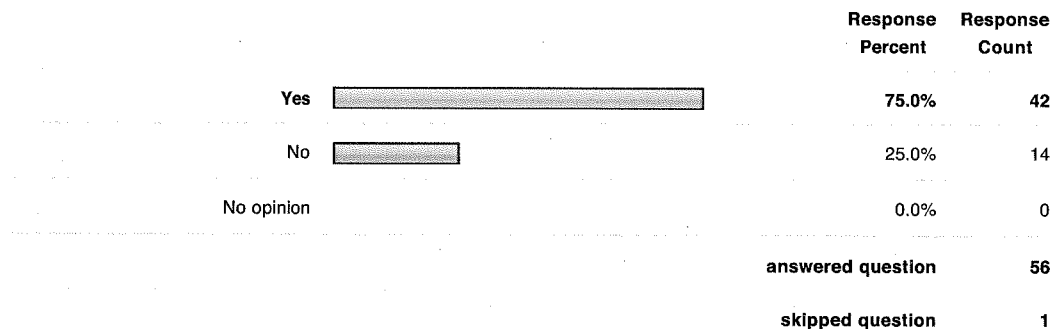


Of the 57 community members who responded **75% (42)** were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar.

Common concern expressed in comments: length of Spring Break.

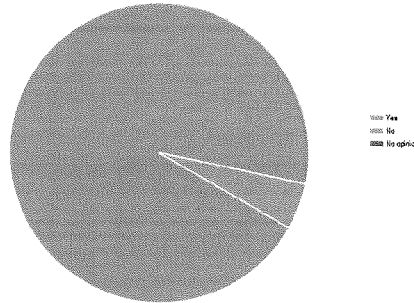
Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?



Principals / VPs Feedback

95% YES
5% NO



Of the 19 Principals / VPs who responded, **95% (19)** were in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar.

No shared concerns expressed.

Altered Calendar 2012

Are you in favour of the proposed District Local School Calendar, which would include a two-week Spring Break, additional holidays on November 9 and January 25, and all six non-instructional dates being held on the same dates for all schools?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.0%	19
No	5.0%	1
No opinion	0.0%	0
answered question		20
skipped question		0