

Start Date Waiver Request Resolution

Director _____ introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Director _____ after due consideration thereof by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the roll having been called, the following Directors voted:

Aye: _____

Nay: _____

Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Sec. 279.10(4), the State of Iowa has granted school districts and nonpublic schools the ability to request a first day of school earlier than the mandated start date; and

WHEREAS, the request is to be made upon a determination by the board that the later start date would have a significant negative educational impact, and

WHEREAS, the Board, in consultation with its community, has determined a later start date would have a significantly negative impact on the educational program due to the direct and indirect impact on student learning and student learning needs, more specifically:

- Completion of the semester after winter break will require teachers to spend a week in January refreshing students' memories, effectively adding days of instruction.
- Allowing those students graduating at semester to attend post-secondary instruction starting in January.
- Avoiding the delay of the end of school, due to weather, going into mid-June when students are significantly less likely to be learning than they are in late August.
- Facilitating dual credit courses for high school students, ensuring they are equipped with post-secondary and career ready skills, with post-secondary institutions by having the calendars aligned.
- Allowing for effective and evidence-based professional development to be spread throughout the school year, rather than front- or end-loaded, in order to improve instruction.
- Honoring the community's desires and needs in the calendar adopted.

WHEREAS, the Board believes that student achievement first and foremost should drive all education policy decisions. Any alterations to the current school start date should have data showing how the later start date is more vital to the state of Iowa than the success of its students, its future. The decision on the school calendar should be made with that in mind as well as the recognition of the community's involvement and support of the calendar.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board:
Passed and approved this 8th day of April 2013.

Board President

Attest:

Board Secretary
