



YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BALANCED CALENDAR RECOMMENDATION

High Quality Teachers and Teaching

March 14, 2013

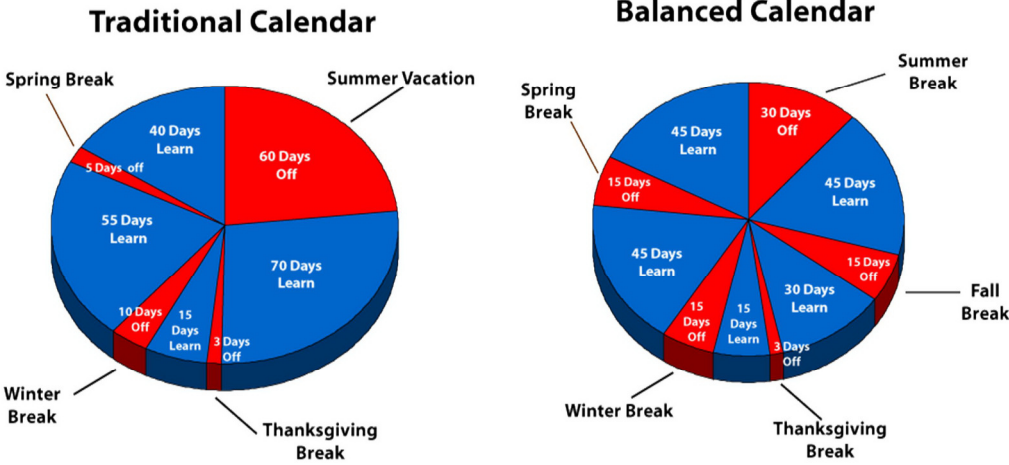
RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that a “Balanced Calendar Work Team” with membership from key stakeholder groups is formed for the purpose of researching balanced calendar models, holding community forums, defining budgetary, logistical and facilities implications and recommending a final design by September 19, 2013 for implementation in the 2014-15 school year.

RECOMMENDATION DETAILS

Balanced Calendar

A balanced calendar is a year-round schooling model that reduces the long summer break by redistributing those days throughout the year. The diagrams below show the different distribution of learning time and break time on a traditional calendar and the balanced calendar. From http://www.nayre.org/calendar_comparison.htm



There are at least three different balanced calendar models: 1) 45-15 Calendar, 2) 60-20 Calendar, 3) 45-10 Calendar. These calendars arrangements represent the number of learning days alternating with the number of “break days.” For example, a 45-15 calendar has 45 learning days, then a 15-day break, then 45 more learning days, then a 15-day break. Different districts adopt different calendar models based on community needs and interest. There is also a “single track” model and a “multi-track” model. The committee favors the single track model for Ypsilanti Community Schools where students and school personnel all follow the same instructional and vacation schedule.

The members of this committee recognize that a balanced calendar concept requires thoughtful and deliberate investigation as well as high levels of consideration at the community level. There is support for the concept due to the opportunity for enrichment and academic support during multiple breaks throughout the year. It also supports the district mission and the continuity of curriculum and the retention, enrichment and exposure of knowledge over the course of the year.

Developing a Process to Determine Best Balanced Calendar Model

A process is necessary to determine which types of balanced calendars would work best for Ypsilanti Community Schools. This process needs to take into consideration the needs and views of parents, staff and stakeholders, athletics and co-curricular activities, professional development, summer school, enrichment programs and music/arts.

A Balanced Calendar Work Team should be formed with membership from various stakeholder groups. Our recommendation for the work team membership is below.

Recommended Committee Members – Representatives from the following groups	
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation representative
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities representative
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One representative from each program/building
Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K Teacher • Elementary Teacher • Middle School Teacher • Special Education Teacher • High School Teacher • Social Worker/Psychologist
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary • Secondary
Community Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YMCA • U-M • EMU • WCC • Summer Camp Partners (Leslie Science Center) • Chamber of Commerce • Other key partners

Some of the key issues that need to be investigated and considered through this work team process:

- Investigate extended year, single track program (our bias) – collect data for benefits to students
- Investigate cost, including Title I supplements
- Consider increase days for the upcoming 2013-14 school year to proposed number of days in the balanced calendar. Parents, staff and students will be used to the length of the calendar.
- Plan around athletics and music programs.
- Summer job concern for high school. Look into work-study programs and flexible class options. High school students work for “campus” during breaks.

The following timeline and set of activities will help outline the work of the work team. The final report and recommendation to the board would be in late September 2013. The balanced calendar model would be implemented for the 2014-15 school year.

BALANCED CALENDAR WORK TEAM RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

DATE	ACTIVITY
March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin soliciting committee members immediately. Ask building administrators to submit names
By April 11, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat committee
April 11-May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research models to present to community - research similar models and populations
May 3 – May 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forums
May 31 – June 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess data and finalize model
June 20 – August 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics, budget, calendar, programming • Develop a draft plan for community review
August 22 – September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust plan based on community review
September 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final document and plan ready for board review

BALANCED CALENDAR WEBSITES

Balanced Calendar models. National Association for Year Round Education.
<http://www.nayre.org/cal.htm>

Massachusetts Extended Learning Time Initiative. <http://www.mass2020.org>

National Center on Time and Learning. <http://www.timeandlearning.org/>

Segment on CBS related to time and learning. <http://www.timeandlearning.org/?q=expanded-learning-time-featured-cbs-evening-news>

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

Naomi Norman, WISD	Nancy Harvey, Parent
Carrie Allen, Parent	Karla Graessley, Principal
Terrance Green, Parent	Sima Thurman, Teacher
Jon Margerum-Leys, EMU faculty	Ambrose Wilbanks, Retired Administrator
Beth Vonck, Teacher	Debby Wilbanks, Retired Teacher
Becky Ralls, Special Education Teacher	Belinda Jackson, Teacher
Sue Bloom, Teacher	