

## 45/15 Community Input Session

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### Benefits

- Engagement
- Retention
- Increase family trips all throughout year
- Routine
- Adds periodic breaks
- Prevent burnout
- Reduce daycare burden of 3 solid months
- High daycare cost for 3 months straight
- Long time (1 week) is better than long weekend or random days off
- K-8 45/15 option – choice
- Take time don't rush the decision
- Kids can enjoy prime weather during summer
- Some schools don't have air conditioning
- Summer jobs – employers need the 3 months
- Summer is too long – bored after a short time
- Quicker at getting back into learning
- Visit family out of state
- Is there educational benefit for the 45/15 schedule
- Flexibility for family travel
- Less wasted time relearning after break
- Less time waster when exhausted
- Enrichment gap
- Survey 2015 – 77.9% teachers want it
- Experts knowing what helps students
- Less summer slide
- Variety/large breaks (March break)
- Shorter summer break
- Retention
- Intersession – “J” term or remediation
- Building occupied year round \$ benefit
- Breaks – more family vacations off-season
- Mayo less competition for summer time off competing less for PTO time
- Childcare different options and possible cost savings – home daycare is cheaper than SACC – costs are spread out thru year
- Teachers and students are frazzled by end of year
- Easier to maintain learning throughout the whole year
- Retention
- No benefits
- More family time/shared responsibilities
- Less stress
- Reduced burnout
- Student, parent staff burnout
- Potential less student regression
- Parents of Longfellow who now have M kids on regular calendar love it

- Retention of knowledge
- Reduce summer slide

## Barriers

- If only some schools change – must be district-wide
- Air conditioning concern
- Elementary kids come home to older brother
- Schools that have changed, have changed back to traditional
- Effect on HS instructional days prior to AP
- 45/15 does not mesh with Ctech or PSEO
- 45/15 require restructure of HS schedule (block schedule – trimester)
- Family time with people not on 45/15 schedule (Rochester transplant community)
- No impartial evidence of 45/15 calendar being academically superior
- Whole community need to restructure
- AC in buildings
- Different schedules for different kids
- In congruent with college schedule
- The world is schedule around a typical calendar
- Should the whole district change, or can they change a choice path of schools
- Lack of evidence for 45/15 benefits
- Figure out how to provide both traditional and non-traditional calendars in RPS
- Communication
- Should all choice schools have a K-12 option
  - Spanish immersion
  - Montessori
  - Washington
- Missed opportunity for families with college students/other families on traditional schedule
- Childcare/SACC
- Inability to get vacation time (parents)
- Student/teacher summer jobs
- Less summer employment opportunities for teachers
- Lack of AC
- Large building maintenance rescheduled
- Kids on different schedules
- AP testing – high school
- MN has 3 months of summer
- Student and teacher summer work will be negatively impacted
- Many studies show little or no educational benefit
- After many years of Longfellow, if this is so good what took so long?
- Cost of running AC
- Benefit learning (hard data)
- Reduce wait lists at Longfellow
- Increased options/vacation
- Benefit to kids with social safety net (weekend back pack programs)
- Childcare could adapt
- Costs
- Will it be all/nothing
- Summer school (stigma with intercession)

- Can limit family time summer/intercessions
- Sports leagues – high school – same?
- Teacher contract? Increase in contact days? \$\$
- AC cost
- Apprehension too many unanswered questions
- People with summer plans already books? (Excused if 45/15 adapted?)
- Teacher summer jobs
- No summer jobs for kids
- DQ, Pools, golf courses
- Taxes go up
- Sports schedules
- Traveling teachers between schools
- CTECH
- Costs
- Hoover, Bishop no AX
- Camps duration cut short
- Childcare no SACC
- Change is hard
- How is everybody's voice heard
- Economically challenged
- Disruption/change of schedule of 45/15 would throw off structured kids needs
- Summer jobs – summer camps
- Remedial or advanced
- How much will implementation cost? Will this be the best way to spend that money?

“Rochester Public Schools (RPS) is considering a district-wide change to the school calendar termed “45/15.” Under 45/15, schools would start in mid-July, between 45 day periods of instruction, a 15 day break will occur. Summer break entails the month of June and half of July. Longfellow Elementary School in Rochester currently operates under the 45/15 calendar.”

“Due to the fact all families in Rochester may be affected, if this calendar is implemented district-wide, our group decided to research the 45/15 schedule. We read current peer-reviewed research, contacted a professor in sociology who has studied year round school, observed state rankings, and studied the effects of 45/15 in cities outside of Rochester. From what we have learned, we are opposed to expanding the 45/15 calendar district-wide. We learned.”

1. “Studies have not determined an educational benefit of 45/15 for mainstream students. These studies are peer reviewed, encompass multiple states, and sample 100,000s of students.”
2. “Property values decrease in school districts which mandate a 45/15 year round schedule. Some families will move to surrounding communities to avoid the schedule and those new to Rochester may decide to live elsewhere.”
3. “Summer income will be lost for both students and employers. Kids saving for college will only have six weeks to work a summer job.”
4. “Obtaining family vacation time will be difficult for members of medical teams at the Mayo Clinic, especially if the employee is lower in seniority due to the shortened summer.”
5. “Cities that have implemented 45/15 calendar are now reverting back to the traditional school year. This year, Des Moines has gone from five schools that employ 45/15 to one due to a lack of achievement and increased student absences. Over the next two years, San Diego's entire district will spend \$12 million to revert from 45/15 back to the traditional calendar for similar reasons.”
6. “A 45/15 calendar would not coincide with college schedules. High school students will not be able to participate in college courses. Family vacation times would be limited with a student in RPS and another in college.”

7. "Teachers lose the ability to take summer jobs or further their education during the summer break. Teachers may be lost if the live in another district with kids on a different schedule. The same would apply for an RPS teacher who has children in private school. Hiring teachers becomes more challenging in a 45/15 district."
8. "Studies demonstrate women in the workforce have a greater chance of terminating employment under a mandated 45/15 schedule, as finding daycare is difficult."
9. "The local economy will be negatively affected. The Olmsted County and Minnesota State Fairs, area pools, Quarry Hill, Oxbow Park, Lanesboro, Camp Victory, YMCA, Eagle Bluff, etc. depend on summer break. We feel the impact to all must be considered in the 45/15 discussion."
10. "Sports and extracurricular activities will be affected. There will be practices and games during vacations if 45/15 is district-wide. This will also affect transportation during 45/15 vacations, kids are committed to activities while parents are at work and buses are not available."
11. "Families could have children on two different schedules if 45/15 is only partially implemented. This greatly limits vacation time for families. This also negates the ability of older siblings to provide childcare to younger ones."
12. "Going back to school in July will affect student moral for those who did not choose this schedule, as family and friends outside the district continue to celebrate summer. Air conditioned buses will also be needed."
13. "Students sleep patterns are affected. Students finally get accustomed to waking up early and then have a 15 day break which is repeated three times throughout the school year."
14. "Many families value the summer weather in MN for enjoying outdoor recreation. July and August are peak times for family vacations within the state."
15. "Implementing 45/15 will come with added costs to our district. Less costly options which demonstrate a more marked effect on education should also be entertained, including later start times, lower student to teacher ratios and expanded summer programming."

"The reasons put forward for implementing 45/15 have been largely opinion-based. Stress has been cited as a reason to change to 45/15. However, as shown by this list, considerable stress will be experienced by families who are unable to choose a traditional school calendar. Less re-teaching after summer break is also cited by supporters. Re-teaching is the same; it is just spread out over the six week and 15 day breaks."

"Those of us opposed to expanding the 45/15 school schedule district-wide are not against expanding 45/15 choice options in Rochester. For example, Lincoln Elementary, which is K-8, could become 45/15. Alternatively, Longfellow Elementary could expand its 45/15 schedule through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Nevertheless, we contend that implementing the 45/15 schedule beyond the above options will be problematic. This is especially true if mandated for families who do not want to adopt the year round schedule. At the high school level, 45/15 becomes even more complex, largely due to the fact that a 45/15 school-within-a-school approach is not legal in the state of Minnesota."

"Rochester Public Schools has incorporated a 45/15 calendar Stakeholder Team designed to provide recommendations to the board. Given that the 45/15 schedule could be implemented district-wide, we consider everyone in the community to be a stakeholder. We hope this list prompts you to get involved in the discussion."

"Sources cited in article:"

"National Education Association"

"Year-Round School Calendars: Effects on Summer Learning, Achievement, Parents, Teachers, and Property Values"

#### Solutions/Suggestions

- Heat days (like snow days)
- All schools same schedule
- Adjust sports/activities schedules
- Other/Misc
- Change start hours
- MS/HS start later

- Ensure daycare/centers are onboard
- August is used as field trip month
- All schools should adopt
- Coaches can help with game prep
- Ask other areas/people who it concerns, and how they will handle transition
- Longer weekend break interspersed thru calendar
- If we are serious about this, further research and interview other districts on 45/15
- Start times
- Delay any decision until 2017-2018 school year
- Further research
- Charter school
- Start times
- Change is hard but positives can and do tend to come along side it...i.e. boundary changes
- Make follow through plans...want more leadership
- All city 9<sup>th</sup> grade at one high school
- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade all and other 2
- Have follow through on all programs started at kindergarten
- Century – 4 pods – 4 schools
- Give us more examples and specifics on different flexible calendars
- Look at British school of Chicago's calendar
- Alternative blend of days off
- Slightly shorter summer, longer fall break with MEA etc.
- All district on one calendar or a choice track
- More information needed about how this would work
- AC no matter the schedule – 5<sup>th</sup> graders smell bad! Lengthen school year – longer breaks during year
- Without public support will this still be considered?
- 45/15 calendar is NOT a year-round calendar
- Group days off
- Adjust calendar in some way – more breaks/longer
- Will need new NW Elementary School
- K-8 possible choice
- Study much more extensively before deciding
  - 45/15 schools
  - Schools who went 45/15 and have returned to traditional calendars
- Please give options not district-wide implementation without a trial at all levels
- Start times before changing the calendar. Much research has shown that later start times for teens especially, lead to better academic achievement as well as mood and behaviors.
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- Teens literally cannot fall asleep early enough to get the 9-10 hours of sleep a night they need, when they have to get up and in many cases catch a bus before 7 am.
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- Look into partnering with public transit with the intent of moving to a single start time.