Imp. Note: you are seeing the Powerpt. With notes below it summarizing what I said orally at each Forum

Intro—
Get to know who’s there

How many attend the school we’re at
How many are guests from another school

How many on traditional calendar
How many on YR
How many have students on both
Any with HS students also

The goal is to have parents and staff at each Forum whose children are on each calendar with some parents/guardians having children on both calendars, and some having children in High School
Introduction

- The District has two calendars currently and is considering a single calendar beginning in 2015-16 that is aligned with the San Mateo High School District's calendar for Winter & Spring Breaks.
- The District desires to engage parents/guardians in the discussion before beginning Calendar negotiations with the Teachers' Association.
Forum Overview

- Provide information on SMFC calendars—Part I
- Provide data and research on calendars—Part II
- Provide an opportunity for parents and staff to share opinions—Part III
- Invite participation in the District’s Calendar Survey—Part IV
Traditional and Year Round calendars in SMFC both have the same number of days in school (180) and out of school. The differences between the two calendars are 1) when the school year starts; 2) the breaks and length of breaks throughout the school year; and 3) when the school year ends.

A common or single calendar when referred to in the presentation is about having one calendar not about what kind of calendar it might be—traditional, year round or a new calendar.

A blended calendar when used the presentation refers to taking the “best” of both the year round and traditional calendars in SMFC and “blending” them into a common calendar.
Brief History of SMFC Calendars

- Traditional-agrarian-based calendar in all SMFC schools until 1990's
- 1990's--Year round model introduced at Parkside upon school community request and at Brewer Island when it opened to provide calendar choice

This slide begins the history of the two calendars in SMFC. Most schools on the Year Round calendar gathered substantial staff and parent support for the year round calendar and then asked the Board of Trustees to switch to the Year Round calendar.
Brief History—cont.

- Since then, more schools adopted year round calendar model based on school community requests to Board of Trustees
- Currently: 8 schools on Year round calendar; 12 schools on traditional calendar
The differences between the SMFC calendars are the start of the school (the Year Round calendar starts by the end of July and the Traditional calendar starts approximately one month later at the end of August. The Year Round calendar has a 3 week break called an “intersession” during October—the Traditional calendar has no Fall Break. Note that the difference in the start of the Winter Break is one day not three because of a weekend. The Winter Break is approximately two weeks each year on the Traditional calendar and three weeks on the Year Round calendar.

During the presentation, I note the differences with the San Mateo Union HS District calendar for this year. The SMUHSD calendar has been developed annually to start in mid August in order to complete first semester finals before the Winter Break. After the mid August start, the High School Calendar through the Winter Break is much like the SMFC traditional calendar with the exception of a professional development day in mid October and a vacation day the day before Thanksgiving. The differences for the second semester—after Winter Break—will be discussed on the next slide.
The differences between the Year Round and Traditional calendars after the Winter Break occur 1) at Spring Break when the Traditional calendar has a one week spring break and the Year Round calendar has a three week Spring Intersession and 2) at the end of the school year with the Traditional calendar last day of school in mid June and the Year Round last day of school approximately two weeks later.

The differences between SMFC and the High School District calendar are 1) a one week Spring Break which this year occurs at the end of March and doesn’t overlap with either SMFC calendar and 2) the school year ends in late May.
Which school/which calendar?

- **Abbott complex:** Abbott, Beresford, Meadow Heights, George Hall, Highlands, Laurel
- **Bayside complex:** Bayside, Horall, Parkside
- **Borel complex:** Borel, Baywood, Highlands, San Mateo Park, Sunnybrae
- **Bowditch complex:** Bowditch, Audubon, Brewer Island, Foster City
- **Choice Schools:** Fiesta Gardens, College Park, North Shoreview
  - Color Note: Year Round / Traditional

12 schools with approximately 7500 students on Traditional calendar, 8 schools with approximately 4000 students on Year Round calendar.

The purpose of this slide is also to show the school calendars of schools in each Middle School complex—a complex consists of a Middle School and the K-5 schools that “feed into” each Middle School. For the 3 choice schools there are no attendance boundaries and students are assigned to a Middle School based on their addresses. The exception is North Shoreview Montessori School which is a K-8 school.

I note that Highlands appears twice because its attendance area is split between two different middle schools—north of 92 and south of 92.
Data and Research on School Year Calendars

- Year round school calendars began as a solution to overcrowding in school districts across USA
- Popularity as an educational model grew in the 1980s
- 2008 national study indicated that 14% of schools nationwide were on Year Round calendars

Since then some districts have changed to other calendars

I will clarify the last note as being mostly in districts which went to YR because of capacity needs and that when many returned to one calendar, they went to a modified calendar which captured parts of both kinds of calendars.

I explain how multi-track year round calendars increase the capacity of schools on that kind of calendar by 25%. I emphasize that no SMFC school is on a multi track Year Round calendar.
Research on impact

- On student learning— recent large studies found no significant differences in test scores; conclusion by some is that student learning differences are more related to time in school how a student spends vacations and breaks.

- Anecdotally-- stories about less learning loss and less time spent on review at the beg. of the school year in YR schools

- And, stories about student "burn out" and potential student behavior issues in Traditional calendar schools with longer periods between breaks.
Impact on School Attendance—SMFCSD

- On Days when the two SMFCSD calendars differ
  - Differences when Year Round Schools are on October intercession
- On Days when the High School District is on vacation and SMFCSD is not:
  - 10/14/2013 attendance drop of 199
  - 11/27/2013 attendance drop of 390

I point out all drops are in comparison to previous days with "normal" attendance.

For the first bullet, I looked at two complexes, Abbott and Bayside.

When Abbott was on intercession in October 2013 and October 2012, there were higher absences at both MH and Laurel which were in school then:

- 150-200% higher absences during those weeks than the first week of October when all schools were in session
- On October 14 2013 (which also overlaps with a HS vacation day)—absences were 3 ½ -5/12 times higher

When Bayside was on intercession and Horrall was in school—I found the same pattern as MH and Laurel with some Mondays and Fridays when Bayside was on intercession having 2-3 times the average absences.

I also note the revenue loss from students being absent for whatever reason and learning loss for those absent as well as those in attendance because the day may have become a review day with many absences or time taken from teaching to catch up absent students when they return.

Re the comparison with the HS District, I note that October 14 is a more relevant day to look at than November 27 because Nov. 27, the day before Thanksgiving, parental decisionmaking about attending school probably has more to do with Thanksgiving travel plans than High School students being on vacation.
Impact on families

- Both calendars have supporters/detractors nationwide
- Some concerns expressed by parents are
  - Children on different schedules
  - A lack of alternatives (child care, camps, enrichment activities) during some vacations and intersessions
Efficiency impacts

- Two calendars can create inefficiencies in operations such as
  - Transportation
  - School lunch and breakfast programs
  - Resolving where to send newly enrolling students when a school/s is at capacity when school starts

The inefficiencies for the first two—Transportation and School meal programs—are in having a total of 220-240 days when school is in session somewhere in the District as compared to 180 days for each student which then requires the school buses to run 220-240 days rather than 180 and the central kitchen to prepare meals for 220-240 days rather than 180 days if there were only one calendar.
Other Challenges

- Difficulty in providing common Districtwide professional development for professional and classified staff on two calendars

This is particularly a challenge at the beginning of the school year due to two different start dates. Professional development has to be repeated before the start of each calendar's school year and opportunities are not available to teachers to share ideas across all schools—for example, the language arts teachers in the middle schools can only meet and share curriculum ideas and best practices with their language arts colleagues from one other middle school before the beginning of the school year rather than from three other middle schools.
Time for questions/clarifications before moving on to give you an opportunity to express your opinions

~ up to 10 minutes for questions and clarifications

This is where those attending the Forums are encouraged to ask questions about the information presented.
Learning from one another

- Traditional Calendar—Likes
- Year Round Calendar—Likes
- Traditional Calendar—Concerns
- Year Round Calendar—Concerns

~10 minutes for each

This is where participants in the Forums are invited to share their opinions about Likes and Concerns/Challenges with each SMFC calendar. The purpose of this time is for participants to educate/inform parents/staff about the calendar that their child/ren are on as well as for the District through me as facilitator to gather those opinions.

I also provide an opportunity for parents/guardians/staff who have children on two calendars to provide their opinions about the likes and challenges of having two calendars or three.
Next Steps

- District holds 16 Forums—March 3-13
- **District Calendar Survey—March 3-17** - details on how to take a Survey are on the handout
- District and Calendar Advisory Committee review results of all Surveys
- District and the Teachers’ Association negotiate the school year calendar(s)
- District and the Classified Employees Association negotiate classified staff work days
- District informs parents/guardians of 2015-16 calendar(s) when negotiations are complete and a calendar is ratified

The Survey handout directs Forum attendees to the District's website: [www.smfc.k12.ca.us](http://www.smfc.k12.ca.us)

The links to the Surveys (Parent English, Parent Spanish and Staff Surveys).

I encourage each family to fill out one Survey and describe the Survey in more detail pointing out that 1) it will take 5-10 minutes to complete and 2) that it contains both multiple choice questions and open-ended questions.