San Mateo-Foster City School District

Calendar Forums
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
Definition of calendar terms

- Traditional
- Year Round
- Common or single
- Blended
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
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
## Current SMFC Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Year Round Calendar</th>
<th>Traditional Calendar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Day of School</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>August 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>September 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Intersession</td>
<td>October 7 - 25</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Day Holiday</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>November 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>November 28 - 29</td>
<td>November 28 - 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Break /Intersession</td>
<td>December 23 - January 10</td>
<td>December 20 - January 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Calendar differences are shown in red
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Round</th>
<th>Traditional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday</td>
<td>January 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Work Day (No School) January 21</td>
<td>January 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidents’ Day Holiday February 17</td>
<td>February 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Day February 18</td>
<td>February 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break / Intersession April 7 - 25</td>
<td>April 14 - 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day Holiday May 26</td>
<td>May 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day of School June 24</td>
<td>June 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which school/which calendar?

- **Abbott complex**: Abbott, Beresford, Meadow Heights, George Hall, Highlands, Laurel
- **Bayside complex**: Bayside, Horrall, 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
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.
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
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
Other Challenges

• Difficulty in providing common Districtwide professional development for professional and classified staff on two calendars
Time for questions/clarifications before moving on to give you an opportunity to express your opinions

~ up to 10 minutes for questions and clarifications
Learning from one another

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

~10 minutes for each
Sharing Thoughts about a Blended Calendar

• Blended calendar—taking the best parts of both and “blending” them into one calendar

~10 minutes on blended
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