FOR ACTION: Approve School Calendar for the 2010-2011 School Year

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve a school calendar for the 2010-2011 school year.

Background Information

In October 2005, the Board approved calendars for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. At a Discussion Council meeting early in the 2006-2007 school year, MCEA representatives indicated that many teachers had expressed a desire to make minor changes in the calendars for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. This topic was discussed at a subsequent work session with the Board. At that time, Board members said they were willing to consider proposed changes but preferred not to change the 2007-2008 calendar. Board members further indicated that they were not opposed to considering changes to the 2008-2009 calendar and agreed that it is a good plan to adopt a calendar for the 2009-2010 school year thereby continuing with a three-year calendar. Changes to the 2008-2009 school year calendar and a calendar for the 2009-2010 school year were approved on February 6, 2007.

The draft school calendar for 2010-2011 has been discussed with the MCEA and principals. It follows the same format of calendars for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years. Although it is impossible to develop a calendar that will resolve all concerns, following are some positive features of the calendar proposed for 2010-2011:

a. Beginning and Ending dates for school year correspond with the current calendar
b. More closely balances the number of student days per semester (89 and 91)
c. Moves vacation day from October to May (Primary Day) – adding a day to 2nd semester and closing schools to accommodate Primary voting traffic/parking
d. Final exams end before the winter break
e. Adds Teacher Records Day/Professional Staff Day at beginning of 2nd semester
f. Moves Professional Staff Day to Presidents’ Day – no school for students
g. Final exams end before Memorial Day break
h. Jump start on working with at-risk student population before annual testing period
i. Additional time in identifying student needs and/or accommodations before annual testing period
j. Earlier completion of the school year allows students to enroll in programs at Ivy Tech and I.U.
k. More flexibility in MCCSC summer school programming