

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

### **PROPOSED 2014-15 HCPS CALENDAR**

**November 11, 2013**

**December 16, 2013**

#### **Background Information:**

Each year, the Board of Education of Harford County appoints an Ad Hoc Calendar Committee to make a proposal for the “out year” Harford County Public School calendar. The 28-person committee – composed of representatives from the community and the school system – is charged with creating a proposed calendar for the year after the coming school year. (NOTE: The Board previously established the practice of creating a calendar, 14-months prior to the start of the school year; however, a waiver was granted by the Board on March 25, 2013, to allow additional time for calendar development as the state testing windows remained undetermined at that time.) The committee meets and develops recommendations for the Superintendent. The proposal is forwarded to the Superintendent who reviews it and makes a recommendation to the Board to adopt the calendar. The Board receives the Superintendent’s proposal at a public business meeting, holds the proposal over for at least one meeting to allow for public comment (the proposed calendar is placed on the HCPS web site), and then votes to adopt a calendar at a subsequent meeting.

#### **Discussion:**

This year, the membership of the 2014-15 Ad Hoc Calendar Committee (roster attached) was approved by the Board of Education at its March 2013 meeting. The committee met on October 10, 2013, and provided recommendations for this year’s proposal, in addition to ideas to consider moving forward, for the Superintendent’s review. The 180-day student/190-day teacher calendar (grid attached) has the following major features:

- New teachers report on Monday, August 18, 2014
- Returning teachers report on Wednesday, August 20, 2014
- School begins for students (kindergarten through grade 12) on Monday, August 25, 2014
  - Kindergarten will follow gradual entrance schedule as noted by the school on the first day
- School begins for pre-kindergarten students on Wednesday, August 27, 2014
- School is closed for (one day each) student/teacher holidays on:
  - Monday, September 1, 2014 (Labor Day)
  - Thursday, September 25, 2014 (Rosh Hashanah)
  - Friday, October 17, 2014 (MSEA Day)
  - Tuesday, November 4, 2014 (Election Day)
  - Monday, January 19, 2015 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
  - Monday, February 16, 2015 (Presidents Day)
  - Monday, May 25, 2015 (Memorial Day)
- Schools are closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 27, and Friday,

November 28, 2014

- Schools are closed for winter break from Wednesday, December 24, 2014, through Friday, January 2, 2015, with a system-wide early dismissal on December 23, 2014
- Schools are closed for spring break Friday, April 3, through Wednesday, April 8, 2015
- Schools are closed for staff development on:
  - Monday, November 3, 2014
  - Monday, November 24, through Wednesday November 26, 2014
  - Thursday, April 9, and Friday, April 10, 2015
- 10 elementary school early dismissal days are scheduled throughout the year, always on a Friday:
  - September 12, 2014
  - October 3, 2014
  - November 14, 2014
  - December 12, 2014
  - January 16, 2015
  - February 13, 2015
  - March 6, 2015
  - April 24, 2015
  - May 22, 2015
  - June 5, 2015
- The calendar is built with eight additional days built-in beyond the 180-day requirement to accommodate for inclement weather/emergency closings.
  - The last possible day of school for students will be on Friday, June 19. If inclement weather/emergency days are not used, a maximum of eight (8) days may be removed from the end of the school year.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the proposed 2014-2015 school calendar as presented by the Ad Hoc Calendar Committee.