

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC  
AGENDA**

**MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022**

**5:00 PM – 5:30 PM**

Via video conference: [Zoom](#) - Meeting ID: 611 8378 2337 – Password: 316245

*Due to COVID-19 public attendance is only available via zoom*

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory**

*We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District No. 8.*

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**Proposed Resolution:**

**THAT** the Agenda for this March 28, 2022 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as circulated.

**4. 3-year School Calendar - Superintendent (p. 2)**

App. 4

**Proposed Resolution:**

**THAT** the 3-year School Calendars for the District, Distributed Learning and Wildflower **BE APPROVED**.

**5. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding item on this Agenda**

*The public will post comments or questions in the Q&A area on the webinar. These will be read aloud during the meeting.*

**6. Adjournment of Meeting**

**FROM:** Trish Smillie, Superintendent  
**DATE:** March 28, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Three-year Calendars Beginning - Public Feedback

**For Information**

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## Introduction

This memorandum provides an overview of the feedback received for the draft 3-year School Calendars beginning 2022-2023.

## Information

[The School Act](#) requires that all school districts in British Columbia develop their own school calendars. School calendars must provide the minimum number of prescribed instructional hours identified in the [School Calendar Regulation B.C. Reg. 314/12](#).

The public consultation process is outlined as follows:

- 5 (1) For the purposes of section 87.01 (7) [*school calendar*] of the Act, a board must make publicly available a school calendar that it proposes to submit to the minister under section 87.01 (5) or (6) of the Act at least one month before the date the school calendar must be submitted to the minister.
- (2) The board must provide an opportunity to
  - (a) the parents of the students enrolled in each school to which the proposed school calendar is to apply, and
  - (b) representatives of employees of the board assigned to the school to provide comments to the board with respect to the school calendar made publicly available under subsection (1).

## Features of the Proposed Calendar

The proposed school calendar is similar to previous years in the placement of breaks is similar to calendars in surrounding districts. Spring break is similar in all surrounding districts, but not consistent. SD8 overlaps in the placement of spring break with all districts except for SD6, who is far different from all other districts in the region. Our school district has aligned professional



development days with surrounding school districts, although each district has different placement of some days.

The change from previous years is moving a professional development day from November to January. The Working Group chose this to balance the placement of non-instructional days and statutory holidays throughout the school year. The School Planning Day has been shifted to September from May to encourage a focus on school planning with current staff within the school and to set up the school for success throughout the year. The Working Group has agreed to review the placement of the school planning day during calendar planning next year.

### Feedback

- The original draft calendars presented to the Board of Education had corrections made, including adding the months of July and August to the Online Learning calendar and adjusting the early dismissal days to retreat days to Wildflower.
- Other feedback is provided in its original form for the board's review. The feedback provided reflects the work of the Calendar Working Group in the development of the drafts and has been considered through discussion.
- The [calendars](#) are attached for review.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the 3-year school calendar for submission to the Ministry of Education.



## Feedback about the draft District 2022-2023 School Calendar

1. Would rather have more working days in December into the mid week Wednesday or Thursday and come back later in January
2. The first two years of the calendar should move Christmas break back to the next week. Have school end closer to Christmas and be out longer after Christmas

3.

4. I hate the 2022-2023 calendar- going until June 30 will be long and painful.

2024-2025 is most ideal for spring break, winter break, and last day in June.

I fully believe wildflower should NOT be on a different schedule than the rest of the district. This creates an unfair desire for many families and employees to be involved at this school rather than attending their catchment school. The results in enrolment has been catastrophic for many schools.

5. November 1st should be pro-D day. I can't believe in all these years (I have 3 kids - oldest at university and youngest going into grade 11, so this does not really affect me anymore) that nobody figured out that the day after Halloween would be a good day for kids to stay home. I always wondered why no one figured that out. Seems logic and a no brainer to me.

6. Early dismissal days are useless. 2 hours is not enough time for parent teacher interviews. One full day should be given in November instead. Also, keeping school in session until June 30 is a terrible idea. Without air conditioning this is torture for teachers and students. Nothing can be accomplished in the last week of June.

7. Please make it align with other districts so that it is not so hard to see family and for friends to come see us

8. Spring Break should be later and align with other districts

9. Spring break should be later to align with other districts

10. Could you move the May school based Pro-d to the 19th to make a 4 day weekend for the students at Mt.SSS?



## Feedback about the draft District 2022-2023 School Calendar

11. I would prefer a Pro-D day on September 6. I would like to see school end closer to December 23 instead of the 16th for the winter holiday.
12. I am still confused as to why it has been deemed not possible for secondary schools to have time set aside for summative assessments, yet Wildflower is able to have an extra week off before winter break and close for summer one week earlier than all other schools. LVR has been pleading to have summative assessment days back in our schedule for years. The school would not be closed and teachers would still be working. According to the BCSTA website and the School Act, it still counts as instructional time since assessment is an important part of instruction. It seems to be a bit unfair. I do not want Wildflower to lose what they have. They should be able to embrace what makes them unique, but why can't LVR have the same consideration? It would be nice if LVR was able to embrace their status as a senior secondary school and allow students to get a taste of what assessment will look like after graduation (Red Seal tests, university final exams, art portfolios, carpentry final projects, etc.).

13. I see that the inequities between Wildflower and other schools in the district continue to exist. This has been going on for years and is disgraceful and inconsiderate to other teachers in the district who work hard without the extra time.

LVR has been asking for years for summative assessments weeks and collaboration time along with turn around days. Every year we are turned down despite the fact that both the BCSTA website and the School Act say this is instructional time. Why does the Board continue to ignore the cries of the teachers? And now, after a year dealing with an unholy timetable LVR teachers are forced, once again, into a school timetable that we had no hand in creating and did not request.

14. I was disappointed to see that the last day of school is June 29. Can there not be a way to have it close earlier. Stretching it right to the end of June is always so much for the students, and teaching/support staff.

15. Spring break is too late

16. In the second year, spring break should be moved up one week to break it with the Easter weekend. That is a really long time out of the classroom with it combined.

17. We as a family dislike the last day of school for the month of June. That is too long for them to be there. It's not like they are doing anything academically. Please reconsider the length. Thank you

18. Consideration for possible 4 day school week - lengthen school day (M-Th) and amend spring break to one week?

19. The Planning day usually held in May should remain in May. Also summer pro -D is extremely valuable and vital to the school year. This should not be changed.



## Feedback about the draft District 2022-2023 School Calendar

20. Please keep planning day at the end of May. Sept is too late into the year to start looking at goals for the year. Please do not change school based pro-d days and allow for these days to be in lieu if doing summer pro-d, which I am also in favour of. These days make sense for working on goals (established in May).

21. I am strongly opposed to having a pro-d day in May. As a teacher, having a pro-d day on May 29th will be a complete waste of time. At this time of the school year I am focused on year end activities, planning for exams, grad etc...This is far too close to the end of the year and will not result in useful learning for that school year. Having been a pro-d rep and chair in the past, I believe strongly in moving the May pro-d day back to November 4th so that teachers/staffs can begin doing pro-d based on the goals set at the planning day in September.

22. I really like to plan ahead and having the planning day in September doesn't allow for that as much. I feel like it will be very stressful to leave it until we have already started the school year.

I also strongly object to not being allowed to do summer pro-d in lieu because this not only allows me to connect with the staff before the school year starts but it also allows me to have much needed break in February which is one of the hardest months in my experience.

23. Hello! I don't really understand the purpose of having the school planning day in September. Should the school not already have a plan well before we are three weeks into the school year..? Seems like something that should be done in the previous spring by the people who just went through a school year and have ideas fresh in their mind.

I also don't understand why we wouldn't continue the practice of allowing teachers to do Pro-D in the summer if they choose and letting them take days off in lieu in November/February. If we care about our teachers and care about mental health as we say we do, it would make a lot more sense to me to give teachers the option to take a break when they are in the thick of it during the school year. That seems like a time that a long weekend would benefit the well being of our teachers more than in the summer. Let's avoid burnout, unfilled postings, and staff shortages by helping our teachers.



## Feedback about the draft District 2022-2023 School Calendar

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24. I believe it was the district who originally implemented summer pro d for teachers, so it seems strange they are now looking at taking it away.

Rather than end of September, could the district look at school planning day be directly before school starts (summer pro d) so teachers are starting the year with a clear direction about school goals for the year?

25. Why is this information hidden and not presented in the news hub or announcement tag for our district? If these decisions really are in the best interest of educators they should be easily accessible to educators.

Why would we not have the school planning day in the previous year so staff can plan ahead? September is extremely busy and is not the best time to create school goals. May is an excellent time to reflect on the year to see what has been working and what needs to be focused on in the future.

26. As a parent, I'm not in favour of these changes. I think we should go back to having a pro-d day in November rather than May.

27. Why is the purposed drafts five days longer than that the last couple school years. Will the school day be adjusted to accommodate the extra days.

School planning day should be in May or June to allow for the school and teachers to prepare for the upcoming school year. Hard to plan for a school year when the planning day is three weeks into the year. Moving school based pro-d days into May does not allow staff to work on school goals until the majority of the school year is completed.

28. I do not support moving the planning day from May to September. In order to plan for the school year, it is easier to know what the school goals are before the year starts. Speakers have busy schedules; pro-d reps need more time to find and book speakers that align with the school goals. If school goals are not set until the end of September, then suddenly pro-d reps are scrambling to find and book speakers that align with our school pro-d days while busy teaching.
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## Feedback about the draft District 2022-2023 School Calendar

29. It would be nice if our calendar aligned with that of the closest school district (SD20). As an employee in SD8 with children in SD20 it is very hard to manage different winter and spring breaks. Why does this continue to be an issue - can't the two school districts work together to have a similar calendar, especially for the extended breaks?

Having the winter break start so early and having to return so early in January is not preferred. I would rather work as close to Christmas as possible as the holiday stress is going to happen regardless of having more time to prep for it, but having such a short break after Christmas and returning to work on January 3rd doesn't give staff a feeling of having a break. Talking to other staff this is a challenge for many so hopefully they actually complete this feedback!

30. For the next two school years changes should be made to the start of the winter break. It would be ideal to have less days off before Christmas and more days after the busy holiday rush to actually have time to enjoy the winter and winter activities before sending kids back to school in the first few days of January. I hope this is reviewed as many parents feel having so many days off leading up to Christmas is not desirable.

31. Thank you

32. I personally like to have pro d's near the beginning of the school year. I love to learn new ideas and my energy levels are higher at this time and I am much more likely to implement those new ideas at the beginning of the school year.

33. Has consideration been given to school calendar becoming full year with longer breaks throughout the school year and only one month summer holiday? I feel it would be better for students to have less time off in the summer so it wouldn't require two months in the Fall to review material from the previous year. More time off in the winter would also help lessen virus (Flu & COVID) spread in the winter months. Spring Break could move to April. It would help with absenteeism due to illness and memory retention for academics.

34. This could be the year to pilot a four day school week in Salmo. This idea was brought forward before with much support from parents. There are many parents who pull their kids from school one day a week as it is - this could be the year to pilot this 4 day school week. It could start slow with one or two 4 day weeks per month and then build into a full 4 day schedule.



## Feedback about the draft District 2022-2023 School Calendar

35. The calendar should be aligned with that of SD 20 - the Winter break in SD 20 is much better! It is nice to have a break after Christmas (having the extra days off before Christmas and going back so early doesn't allow people to feel they actually have a break)

36. As new information is coming to light in our community, which is rural, And operates on its own bus schedule apart from the core of Nelson, Salmo elementary and Salmo secondary should have a calendar change to have one Friday afternoon a month, to collaborate as a team, work on school goals and professional development specific to our students needs.

Our daycare is starting this new shift this spring, and if the schools can follow suit, our close knit community would have the highschool students to rely on for babysitting in our small town allowing parents to still work a full day.

The daycare, which is our feeder school, is closing the last Friday of each month at 12 for staff building, program planning, collaboration and training.

It would be an amazing collaboration if the schools in salmo could do the same thing. This would leave open study block options for secondary school, easier to meet about the transitions to kindergarten between all the parties, not to mention team teaching groups and program development with in the school. It could also allow for more seamless transitions to grade 7 with time for two schools to meet.

37. Change the winter break so teachers and staff actually have a chance to feel they have a break! Having to be back on January 3, 2023 is ridiculous!  
Align spring break with school district 20 - this implicates things for staff and parents who have children in both districts (Thrums/Tarrys)

38. I feel the planning day, normally located in May, should not be moved to the beginning of the year. This planning day is there to help schools plan for the next year, trying to plan for a new year, three weeks in is a little late in my opinion



## Feedback about the draft Wildflower 2022-2023 School Calendar.

1. Why does this public school get an additional 2 weeks of holidays? Teachers receive the same pay, yet get two extra weeks of holidays. This is grossly unfair and has gone undressed for far too long. Every employee in the rest of the district would tack on extra time to the day to have the same perk! Wildflower is not a public school, it runs and behaves like an independent school and should be considered as such.
2. The draft Wildflower calendar for 2022-2023 reports there to be 171 days of instruction, but there are only 21 days of instruction in May and 16 in June (not 22 and 17 as noted beside each month respectively) for a total of 169.

However, students do not attend Wildflower on Fridays. This means that Fridays are NOT days of instruction, and so SD8 should be reporting only 139 days of instruction at Wildflower.

In order to meet the requirement of 873 hours of instruction for grades 1 to 7 students, school days should have an average length of 377 minutes, or 6 hours and 17 minutes. This means that if the day started at 8:43am, and had a 15 minute recess and 45 minute lunch break, it would not be able to dismiss students until 4:00pm. This would be an unacceptable schedule, particularly for primary students, and would discriminate against “bus students”.

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