



School Board Resolution on School Start Date Change

WHEREAS the State of Wisconsin by state statute had indicated that public school districts in the State of Wisconsin cannot start school before September 1 pursuant to *Wis. Stat. sec. 118.045 Commencement of school term; and*

WHEREAS the school board may commence a school term prior to September 1st if it submits a written request to the Department of Public Instruction asking for an earlier start date listing the extraordinary reasons for the earlier start date request; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date would allow for additional days of instruction for students prior to state and local assessments, and preparation for the ACT and Advanced Placement; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District to align its calendar with post-secondary institutions to better meet the needs of our students; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District staff to participate in professional development college coursework for license renewal as K12 schedules become more aligned with post-secondary schedules; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District to adjust its calendar to allow for non-instructional days the week of deer hunting and the Thanksgiving holiday in order to address extremely high student absentee rate during this week of school due to the culture of the hunting season in our community; and

WHEREAS local control over the start day will allow the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District to better align its instructional schedule with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins in early August; and

WHEREAS tourism has changed to where most tourists leave Wisconsin because regionally in other states public schools start in early to mid-August; and

WHEREAS charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start prior to September 1st and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is recommending in his 2017-19 Biennial Budget to allow the Milwaukee Public School District to be provided an exception to this provision in the state law *to allow the district to maximize learning opportunities*; therefore, this opportunity should be granted for all school districts in the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District is officially requesting approval to commence the school term for the 2018-2019 school year on a date as yet to be determined in August of 2018, thus establishing local control in determining the school calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District will be better able to educate its school children because of this flexibility as greater outcomes are anticipated academically as well as preventing absenteeism and for the safety of our students.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that on February 14, 2017 the Palmyra-Eagle Area School District School Board passed this Resolution in order to establish local control for the 2018-2019 school year and beyond by a vote of Seven – “Yes” and Zero – “No”.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2017.

Mr. Scott Hoff, Board President

Mr. Justin Thomas, Board Clerk