

School Board Resolution on School Start Date Change

WHEREAS the State of Wisconsin by state statute has 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 School District of Stratford to align its school calendar with post-secondary institutions to better meet the needs of our students; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow School District of Stratford 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 School District of Stratford the opportunity to adjust its calendar to allow for non-instructional days the week of deer hunting / Thanksgiving in order to address student safety of children not being out at bus stops during the rifle/gun season during legal shooting hours and in addition to prevent ending the school year in the 2nd or 3rd week of June; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of Stratford to better align its school calendar with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins 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.

WHEREAS the State Superintendent 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 School District of Stratford is officially requesting approval to commence the school term prior to September 1st and establish local control in determining the school calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the School District of Stratford 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 students.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that on February 13, 2017, the School District of Stratford unanimously passed this Resolution in order to establish local control for the school calendar by a 5-0 vote.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2017



Dan Thompson, Board President



Pam Warosh, Board Clerk



Scott Winch, District Superintendent