

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Millburn Public Schools

INFORMATION ITEM

March 1, 2010

To: Board of Education Members

From: Ellen E. Mauer, PhD

Subject: Calendar Review

We received the attached request from District #117 to reconsider our decision to have our winter break from December 20-31 and to instead have our break go from December 23- January 4.

You may remember that we were initially concerned with the high schools doing a mid-week type of break since we did not feel that was educationally sound for our students at this age level. Our staff wished to have as many 5-day weeks for students as we were able to do and really felt strongly about preserving the entire 2-week period for break. I do not know if the same request was made to District #41 and they opted to have a full two-week break as well.

Good Morning Dr. Mauer

Thank you for your quick response. I understand that you have different concerns than the high schools, and appreciate your consideration of this topic. Our main purpose in contacting you is to be sure that the parents are aware of the reasons for the varying schedules when the holiday break rolls around. Sometimes these things can't be avoided, but if there is a chance that the schedule may change, please let us know.

Thank you again for your time and have a great week.

Sincerely

Tracy McGrath

On Mon, Feb 22, 2010 at 7:00 AM, Ellen Mauer <emauer@millburn24.net> wrote:

> Hello, Mrs. McGrath,

>

> We will not be able to discuss the request until March 1st at our  
> Committee of the Whole meeting. Then we can get back to you.

Please

> understand we needed to take input from all constituencies and do  
what we

> felt was best academically for our students. Having a winter break that  
> went from mid-week to mid-week was not what we felt was best for our  
> younger students. It was not our intent to cause any difficulty for the  
> three high schools who receive our students.

>

> We will be in touch.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Ellen Mauer

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> Dr. Ellen E. Mauer

> Superintendent

> Millburn School District #24

> 18550 Millburn Road

> Wadsworth, IL 60083

> 847-356-8331

> 847-356-9722 FAX  
> 847-245-2900 Direct

>

> tracy mcgrath <tmcgrath03@gmail.com> on February 22, 2010 at  
6:53 AM -0500

> wrote:

>>Hello fellow Board Members,

>>

>>I am writing to you on behalf of the District 117 (Antioch/Lakes High  
>>Schools) Board of Education. We had approved our calendar for the  
>>upcoming 2010-2011 school year, in conjunction with the Lake County  
>>Tech Campus and other area high schools. A discussion has come up  
>>with regard to several dates on the calendar not matching up with two  
>>of our feeder districts, 41 and 24 (Millburn).

>>

>>A few years ago, District 117 made a commitment to have it's  
students

>>complete their first semester, including final exams, before the  
>>winter holiday break. In order to do this, we have had to make  
>>several calendar adjustments. Other high schools in the area have  
>>followed the same idea. We all work together with the Technology  
>>campus, to be sure that our students are able to finish their  
>>curriculum at that location. This necessitates making our calendar  
>>comply with theirs. I tell you all of this, so that you will  
>>understand how we have come about certain decisions with regard to  
our

>>calendar choices.

>>

>>The calendar has been set with our students taking final exams on  
>>December 20, 21 and 22. They will not be released until that  
>>Wednesday, just before Christmas. Several of our feeder districts  
>>have matched their calendars to ours so that parents can plan  
>>accordingly. However it has come to our attention that Millburn will  
>>be released on the Friday before, and will resume school earlier than  
>>the high school. Our concern is that parents will complain because  
>>their children will not have the same holiday schedule. This is a  
>>tight knit community, and you all know as well as I, that our parents  
>>can be pretty vocal about these issues.

>>

>>I would like to ask you to reconsider your calendar for next year, and

>>if at all possible, attempt to match your calendar to the high  
>>schools. We would not be in this situation if we had more control  
>>over our own calendar, but we have to follow what the Technology  
>>Campus dictates to us. Please take some time to consider this  
>>request, and think ahead to how this will affect the families in your  
>>district.

>>

>>If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, you  
>>can contact me via email or call me at home. My number is  
>>847-265-7085. You may also contact Dr. Jay Sabatino,  
Superintendent  
>>for district 117 at [jsabatino@d117.org](mailto:jsabatino@d117.org).

>>

>>Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes for a great school  
year!

>>Sincerely

>>Tracy McGrath

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