



Bullitt County Public Schools

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MEMO

To: Board of Education

From: Jesse Bacon

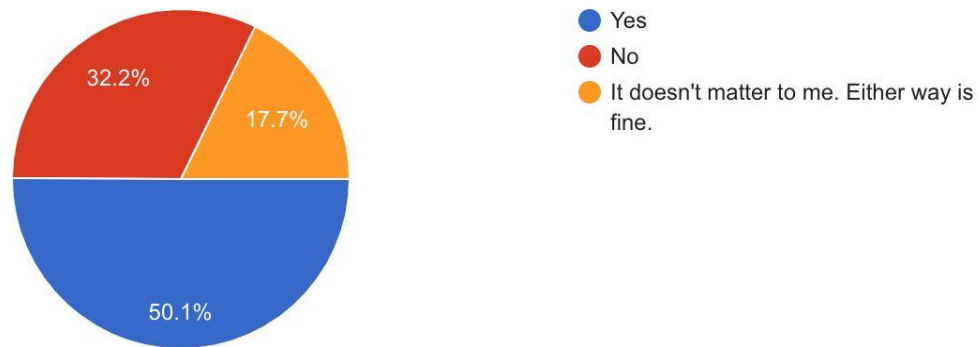
Date: November 21, 2018

Re: 2018-2019 BCPS School Calendar Amendment.

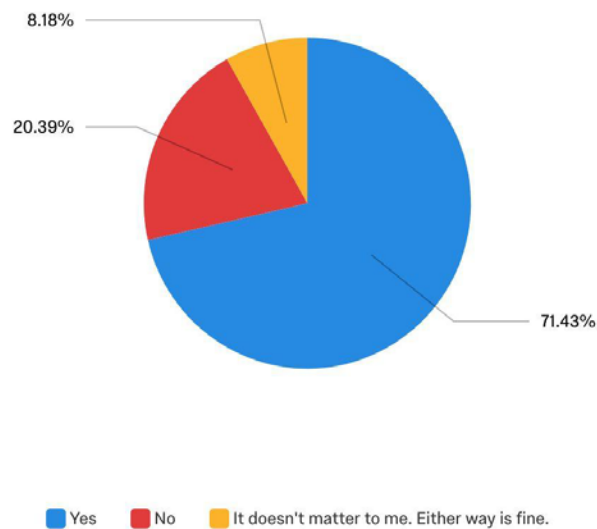
This year we found ourselves in an extremely unusual situation, having to take a snow day before Thanksgiving Break. As you know, it became necessary to cancel school on Thursday, November 15, 2018, due to hazardous ice conditions and power outages in a couple of our schools. According to the school calendar approved by the board at the December 2017 meeting, the first day available to be used for a make-up day is Monday, February 18th. Knowing how long the school year extended last year and knowing that we have not even reached the beginning of winter, BCEA President Kim Ludwig and I worked together to identify another option for the November 15th make-up day.

As it stands today, Christmas Break for students begins on Thursday, December 20th and extends through Friday, January 4th. Students are not scheduled to return to school until Monday, January 7th. Because the heart of winter is still several weeks away, Mrs. Ludwig and I propose that we use Thursday, December 20th as an instructional day with students to make up for the missed day on November 15th. Doing so would allow Monday, February 18th to remain available for a future make-up day if needed.

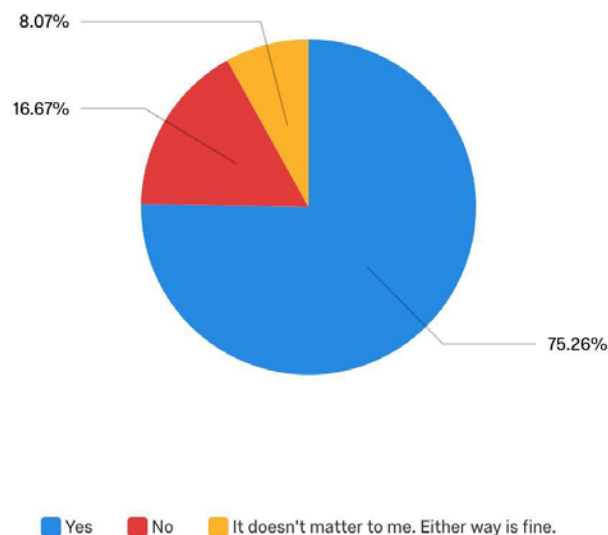
As you know, an amendment to the school calendar requires board approval. We would not entertain the idea of bringing this proposal to you for consideration if we didn't have sufficient support from our BCPS school community. We first surveyed our faculty and staff, and asked them one question: ***If given the opportunity, would you be in favor of making Thursday, December 20th an Instructional Day with students (i.e. school would be in session) to make up for the November 15th snow day?*** The results indicate there is significant support for this amendment, as only 32% of respondents reported they would NOT be in favor of the change. You can see the full results of that survey below:



Once we learned there was support from faculty and staff for such a change, we then polled our students, parents, and community members using the same question. We received over 3,300 responses to that survey and the results were even more lopsided than the faculty and staff survey. You can see the full results of that survey below:



That is a substantial margin. If I were to take the student vote out of that and look at only parent responses, it's even more significant. See below:



Through this process, Ms. Ludwig and I have expressed our desire to make the best decision we can for our kids, while ensuring that we have the support of our entire school community. We know that it would be impossible to get everyone to agree on an idea, but it was essential for us to give everyone a voice in this process. I sincerely thank all of those who took the time to give us feedback.

Based on the results of both surveys, it is our recommendation that the Board amends the 2018-2019 school calendar to make Thursday, December 20th an instructional day with students in which school would be in session.