

Newport Independent Schools
DIRECTOR STUDENT SERVICES REPORT
6/24/2020

Good evening Madame Chair and ladies of the board of education. This is my shortest report of the year. The following items are for your information:

- ✓ With Mr. Watts' approval, I have submitted another calendar option for your approval. You have already approved option numbers 1, 2, and 3, but in talking with 145 DPP's in the state, no one is opting to start school in July as our option number 2 depicts. Option number 4 like number 3 meets the Kentucky guidelines for variable calendars and we think this model enables teachers and administrators to plan better for the school year given the uncertain nature of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. Accordingly, we are seeking your approval.
- ✓ Like all school districts in Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) offered districts to take last year's (2018 – 2019) SAAR (Superintendent's Annual Attendance Report) data or the 2019-2020 data. Mr. Middleton and Mr. Watts elected to take last year's data as over 90% of districts, because while our attendance rate in March was over a half a percentage point above last year's attendance rate, the law stipulates that if your district is on NTI days, your rate will be calculated at the previous year's attendance. In addition, if we took 2019-2020 SAAR Data, we would lose 39 days of transportation funding. Obviously, that would have a significant impact.
- ✓ Even though we are taking the 2018-2019 Superintendent's Annual Attendance Report Data, we still had to run this year's SAAR data and verify to KDE that it was correct. I informed Mr. Brad Kennedy of KDE that the Newport Independent School District 2019-2020 SAAR Data was correct on June 9, 2020.
- ✓ The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) informed me that the amended 2019-2020 calendar that you approved on May 6, 2020 was approved by KDE on May 29, 2020.