

APPROVE HOLIDAY WAIVER**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD:**

Authorize a holiday waiver allowing for classes, parent-teacher conferences, teacher in-services or teacher institutes on school holidays.

PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICES: A Public Hearing on the holiday waiver was held on March 28, 2012, before the Board, in accordance with Section 24-2(b) of the Illinois School Code. Notice setting forth the time, date, and place of the hearing was provided via parent portal, website publication, and newspaper notice.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLIDAY WAIVER:

On August 22, 2007, the Board approved (Board Report 07-0822-ED2) submitting an application for modifying the Illinois School Code to allow for classes, parent-teacher conferences, teacher in-services or teacher institutes on Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Casimir Pulaski Day and Columbus Day. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved this application for five years expiring at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Since the ISBE approval, P.A. 96-640 was enacted on August 24, 2009, and provides that a school board is authorized to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development activities (including school improvement and in-service training) on the following school holidays: the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (third Monday in January); the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12); the birthday of Casimir Pulaski (first Monday in March); Columbus Day (second Monday in October); and Veterans' Day (November 11).

A school board is authorized to take these actions provided that (1) the person or persons honored by the holiday are recognized through instructional activities conducted on that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance, on the first school day preceding or following that day; and (2) the entity choosing to exercise this authority first holds a public hearing about the proposal. A school board shall provide notice preceding the public hearing to both educators and parents, setting forth the time, date, and place of the hearing; describing the proposal; and indicating that testimony from educators and parents will be taken about the proposal during the public hearing.

The CEO seeks the flexibility to use Columbus Day and Casimir Pulaski Day in developing school calendars that allow for a longer school year with more instructional school days for Chicago public school students. If these school holidays are used, schools will provide instructional activities on the person or persons honored by the holiday.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to establish a school calendar that may use Columbus Day and Casimir Pulaski Day for classes, parent-teacher conferences, teacher in-services or teacher institutes.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

FINANCIAL: The board is in the process of determining exact financial impact.


GENERAL CONDITIONS: Not applicable.

Approved for Consideration:




Noemi Donoso
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



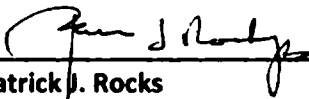
Jean Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



David G. Watkins
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: ^{97c}



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel