

August 26, 2020

AMEND BOARD REPORT 14-0226-EX16
APPROVE HOLIDAY WAIVER

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

That the Chicago Board of Education (the "Board") authorizes a holiday waiver and allows for classes, parent-teacher conferences, or conduct a teacher in-service or a teacher institute on school holidays.

This February 2014 amendment is necessary to authorize the use of a school calendar that may include the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12) for classes, parent-teacher conferences, or teacher in-services or a teacher institute.

This August 2020 amendment is necessary to authorize the use of a school calendar that may include the Veterans Day (November 11) for classes, parent-teacher conferences, or teacher in-services or a teacher institute.

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.

A Public Hearing on the proposed use of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday as a day of student attendance day, parent-teacher conferences, or teacher in-services or teacher institute is being held on February 26, 2014, before the Board, in accordance with Section 24-2(b) of the Illinois School Code. Notice setting forth the time, date, and place of hearing was provided via parent portal and teachers, website publication and newspaper notice.

A Public Hearing on the proposed use of Veterans Day as a day of student attendance day, parent-teacher conferences, or teacher in-services or teacher institute is being held on August 26, 2020 before the Board, in accordance with Section 24-2(b) of the Illinois School Code. Notice setting forth the time, date, and place of hearing was provided via website publications and newspaper notice.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLIDAY WAIVER:

On August 22, 2007, the Board approved (Broad Report 07-0822-ED2) submitting an application for modifying the Illinois School Code to allow for classes, parent-teacher conferences, or 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 inservice 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/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 of using Columbus Day and Casimir Pulaski Day to develop 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.

The CEO seeks additional flexibility in planning the school calendar by adding President Abraham Lincoln's birthday to the list of holidays that the district may use for classes, parent-teacher conferences, or teacher in-services or teacher institute.

The CEO seeks additional flexibility in planning the school calendar by adding Veterans Day to the list of holidays that the district may use for classes, parent-teacher conferences, or teacher in-services or teacher institute. If Veterans Day is used as a day of student attendance, schools will have a moment of silence and provide instructional activities on veterans.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to establish a school calendar that may use Columbus Day, Casimir Pulaski Day, ~~and~~ President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and Veterans Day for classes, teacher institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development activities.

LSC REVIEW: Not applicable.

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

GENERAL CONDITIONS: Not applicable.

Approved for Consideration:

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Respectfully Submitted:

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