

By the time this reaches the Board, the Board will have already voted on the 21-22 school calendar. I would still like to sum up a few thoughts of some of the HBEA members.

Our district took the insurance of snow days out of the calendar a few years ago when the HS did so. They tried it. They are returning to the tried and true. Apparently they felt it is better to have snow days as they have added four back in again, to their 21-22 calendar.

We don't have to follow everything they do. (As I mentioned last week, it is certainly easier for us to move 8th grade graduation than it is for the HS to move their graduation.) However, for many good reasons, built-in snow days make sense. And, no, we don't have to subtract them from spring break if we go over our allotted amount. There are other options.

As some may remember, a few years ago the Board voted to remove the clause from the calendar that was in existence to remove days, 1st from spring break, in favor of adding any additional snow days taken, to the end of the year. Why do we need to change what works?

As we are aware, we have no way to predict weather from year to year. If we are allowed to have "virtual" days when we are done with COVID, it might work to our advantage to have those in some cases.

However, if we have a big weather event, when there are power outages or frankly, when we have enough snow so that kids can just be kids and be able to go sledding instead of sitting in front of the computer very distracted, wouldn't that be great!

If we added in three or four snow days, and didn't use them, it is easier to schedule the days off near the end of the school year, than it is to constantly revise the calendar adding many, many make-up days back in.

Three or four days built in would give some insurance. And if there aren't any more emergency days used beyond that number - great! And if there are, there would be fewer days in the end, that would have to be made up, (subtracting out the 3 or 4 planned, given days.) And yes, the clause could be to add any additional days used to the end of the school year.

Building in snow days relates to the theory behind insurance. You don't want to have to use it, but when you need it, you are really glad that it is there.

Respectfully,

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