

PORT TOWNSEND (PT) STAFF ENGAGEMENT

The PT School Calendar Working Group (SCWG) launched an engagement process for the 2023-24 school calendar with a presentation at the November All Staff meeting. SCWG members presented summary information gleaned from the Regional Balanced Calendar Conference held in Yakima in October, 2022. A post-staff meeting survey was distributed to the PT School Staff to gather their feedback, insights, and considerations for the 2023 Port Townsend School Calendar.

The PT Staff survey had an 81% response rate with a total of 144 respondents who completed the survey out of 176 total possible Port Townsend District staff.

This included responses from:

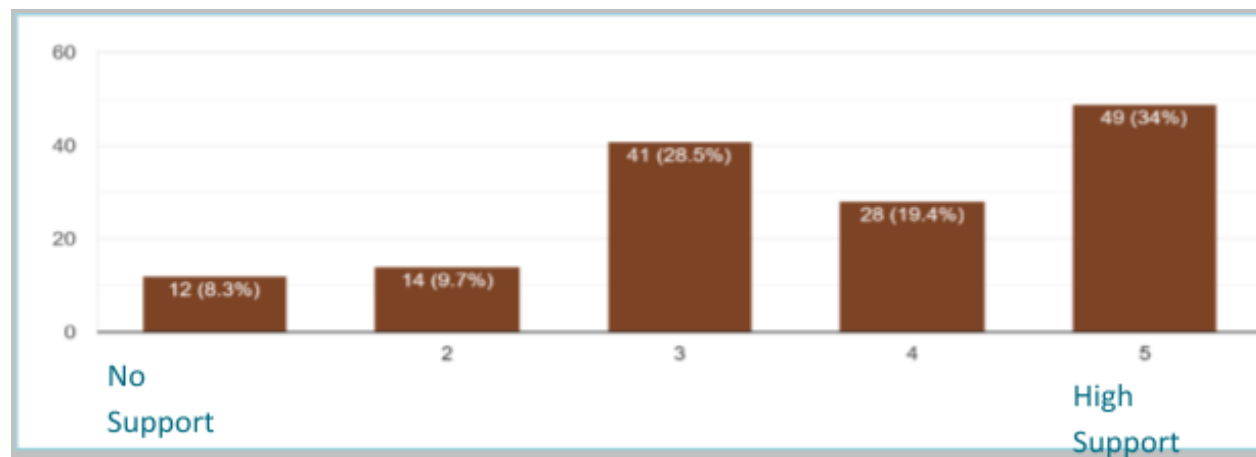
- 55 out of 84 possible classified staff (includes paraeducators; kitchen, maintenance and custodial staff; bus drivers and district office staff)- 65% participation
- 89 out of a possible 92 certificated staff (includes teachers, counselors, deans, and principals) - 97% participation

STAFF SURVEY FEEDBACK (YOU CAN READ A FULL REPORT OF ALL QUESTIONS [HERE](#))

“What is your level of support right now for the general idea to spread out our 180 school days in a modified or balanced calendar?”

	% not in favor		% Neutral		% high support
Certificated Staff	17%		24%		59%
Classified Staff	21%		37%		45%

All Responses



Strengths

Staff gave highest ratings to these potential strengths:

- adjusting the school calendar to themes of summer learning loss prevention, less reteaching; increasing staff retention and preventing staff burnout; the ability to travel at nonpeak times; and students having more continuous access to resources/care.

Themes that received between 35-45% ratings included:

- Improvement of student attendance because family vacations/appointments can shift to breaks.
- The possibility of enrichment, intervention, and credit recovery during intersessions.
- Volunteered comments noted a perception that a modified calendar with scheduled intersessions will help vulnerable students.

Challenges

High-rated concerns focused on:

- The potential lack of recovery time and summer activity conflicts, which could have cultural impacts for students and staff if a shorter summer break was instituted.
- The lack of childcare.

Mid-rated challenges included:

- Economic impacts to students, staff, and community if summer work is curtailed with a shorter summer
- Impacts to support services and facilities schedules
- Transportation

Themes from the optional comments respondents offered

- Develop a few 2023-24 calendar options with the exact days on/off so people can calibrate their understanding of what is possible.
- Ensuring that the process includes community and staff input
- Go for small changes in the 2023-24 year; avoid starting any earlier and go later into June (because the weather isn't as nice then.)
- Concern for how complex it will be to organize local organizations to pivot their scheduling
- Impact on graduating seniors and timing for them to do summer study abroad programs, summer jobs, moving to college.

