

## School Board Resolution on School Start Date Change

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin by state statute has indicated that public school districts in the State of Wisconsin cannot start school before September 1 pursuant to *Wis. Stat. sec. 118.045 Commencement of school term*; and

WHEREAS the school board may commence a school term prior to September 1 if it submits a written request to the Department of Public Instruction asking for an earlier start date listing the extraordinary reasons for the earlier start date request; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date would allow for additional days of instruction for students prior to state and local assessments and preparation for the ACT and Advanced Placement; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of the Menomonee Area to align its school calendar with post-secondary institutions to better meet the needs of its students; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of the Menomonee Area staff to participate in professional development college coursework for license renewal as K-12 schedules become more aligned with post-secondary schedules; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of the Menomonee Area to adjust its calendar to allow for non-instructional days the week of deer hunting/Thanksgiving in order to address student safety for children who would otherwise be at bus stops during rifle/gun season during legal shooting hours and, in addition, to prevent the extremely high student absentee rate during this week of school due to the culture of the hunting season in the Chippewa Valley being a strong family tradition, and to prevent ending the school year in the third week of June; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of the Menomonee Area to better align its school calendar with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins in early August; and

WHEREAS tourism has changed to where most obvious tourists leave Wisconsin because regionally in other states public schools start in early to mid-August; and

WHEREAS charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start prior to September 1 and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS the State Superintendent is recommending in his 2017-2019 Biennial Budget to allow the Milwaukee Public School District to be provided an exception to this provision in the state law *to allow the district to maximize learning opportunities*; therefore, this opportunity should be granted for all school district in the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of the Menomonie Area is officially requesting approval to commence the school term for the 2017-2018 school year on August 28, 2017, to establish local control in determining the school calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of the Menomonie Area will be better able to educate its school children because of this flexibility as greater outcomes are anticipated academically as well as in preventing absenteeism and for the safety of students.

BE IT RESOLVED that on January 23, 2017, the School District of the Menomonie Area passed this Resolution in order to establish local control for the school calendar by an 8-0 electronic vote.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2017.

/s/Jay Fahl  
Jay Fahl, Board President

/s/Tammy Schneider  
Tammy Schneider, Board Clerk

/s/Joseph Zydowsky, Ph.D.  
Dr. Joe Zydowsky, District Administrator