

### 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 *Wisc. Stat. sec. 118.045 Commencement of school term*; and

WHEREAS the school board may commence a school term prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Tomahawk School District to align its school calendar with post-secondary institutions to better meet the needs of our students; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow Tomahawk School District 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 Tomahawk School District to adjust its calendar to allow for non-instructional days the week of deer hunting/Thanksgiving in order to address student safety of children not being out as bus stops during the rifle/gun season during legal shooting hours and in addition to address, to prevent the extremely high student absentee rate during this week of school due to the culture of the hunting season in the northwoods being a strong family tradition, and to prevent ending the school year in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Tomahawk School District 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 tourists leave Wisconsin because regionally in other state public school start in early to mid-August; and

WHEREAS charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin.

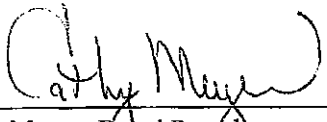
WHEREAS the State Superintendent is recommending in his 2017-19 Biennial Budget to allow the Milwaukee Public School District to be provided an exception to this provision in the state law *to allow the district to maximize learning opportunities*; therefore, this opportunity should be granted for all school district in the state of Wisconsin.

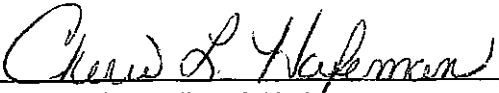
BE IT RESOLVED that the Tomahawk School District is officially requesting approval to commence the school term prior to September 1, 2017, and establish local control in determining the school calendar.

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

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that on January 12, 2017 the Tomahawk School District passed this Resolution in order to establish local control for the school calendar by a 8-0 vote.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

  
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Cathy Meyer, Board President

  
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Cherie Hafeman, Board Clerk

  
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Terry Reynolds