



**Policy Leadership to  
Transform the K-12  
School Calendar Year  
for All Students**



## **Phyllis “Bunker” Frank**

WSSDA Past President | Past State Board of Education Member | Past Yakima School Board Member

## **Martha Rice**

Yakima School District Board President & WSSDA Past President

## **Dr. Trevor Greene**

Superintendent | Yakima School District

## **Dr. Jon Mishra**

OSPI Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Early Learning, Special Programs and Federal Accountability



*Yakima*  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# “Who Is In The Room”

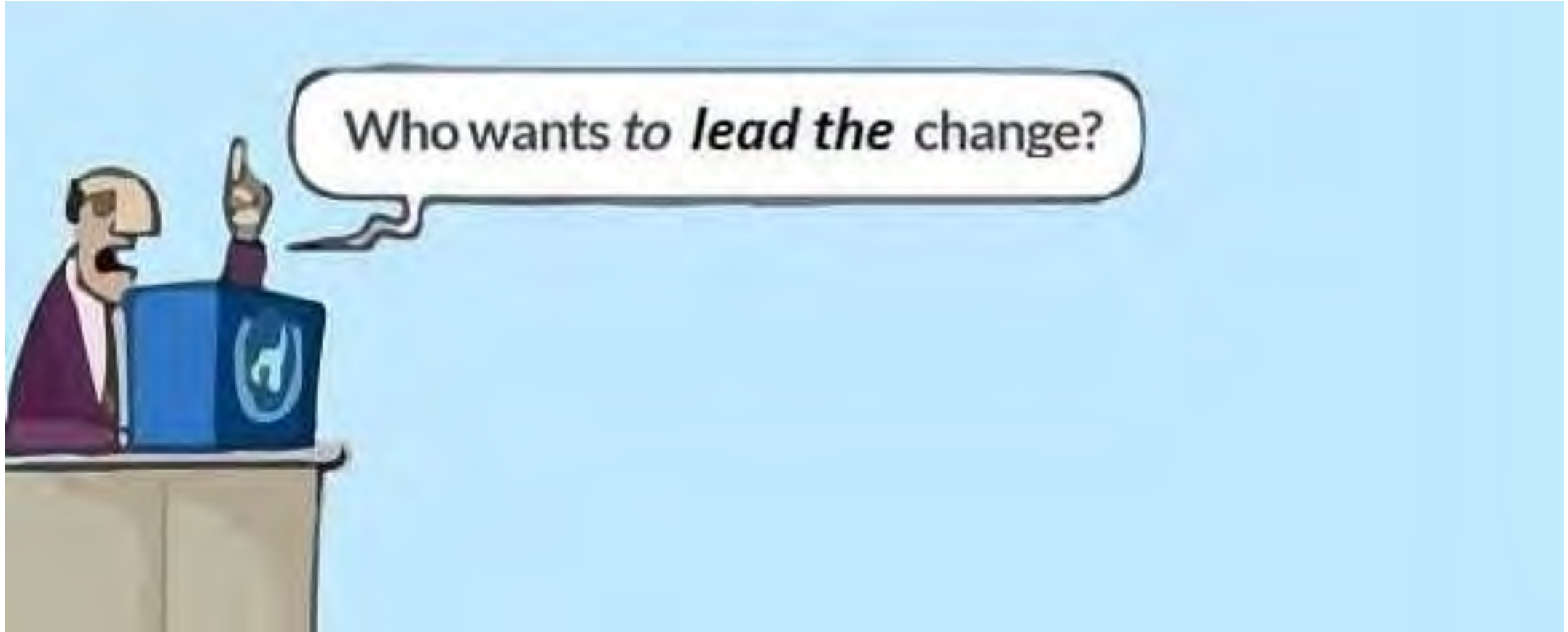


# An Introduction With Phyllis “Bunker” Frank









Thank you for being those who lead the change.



# Traditional

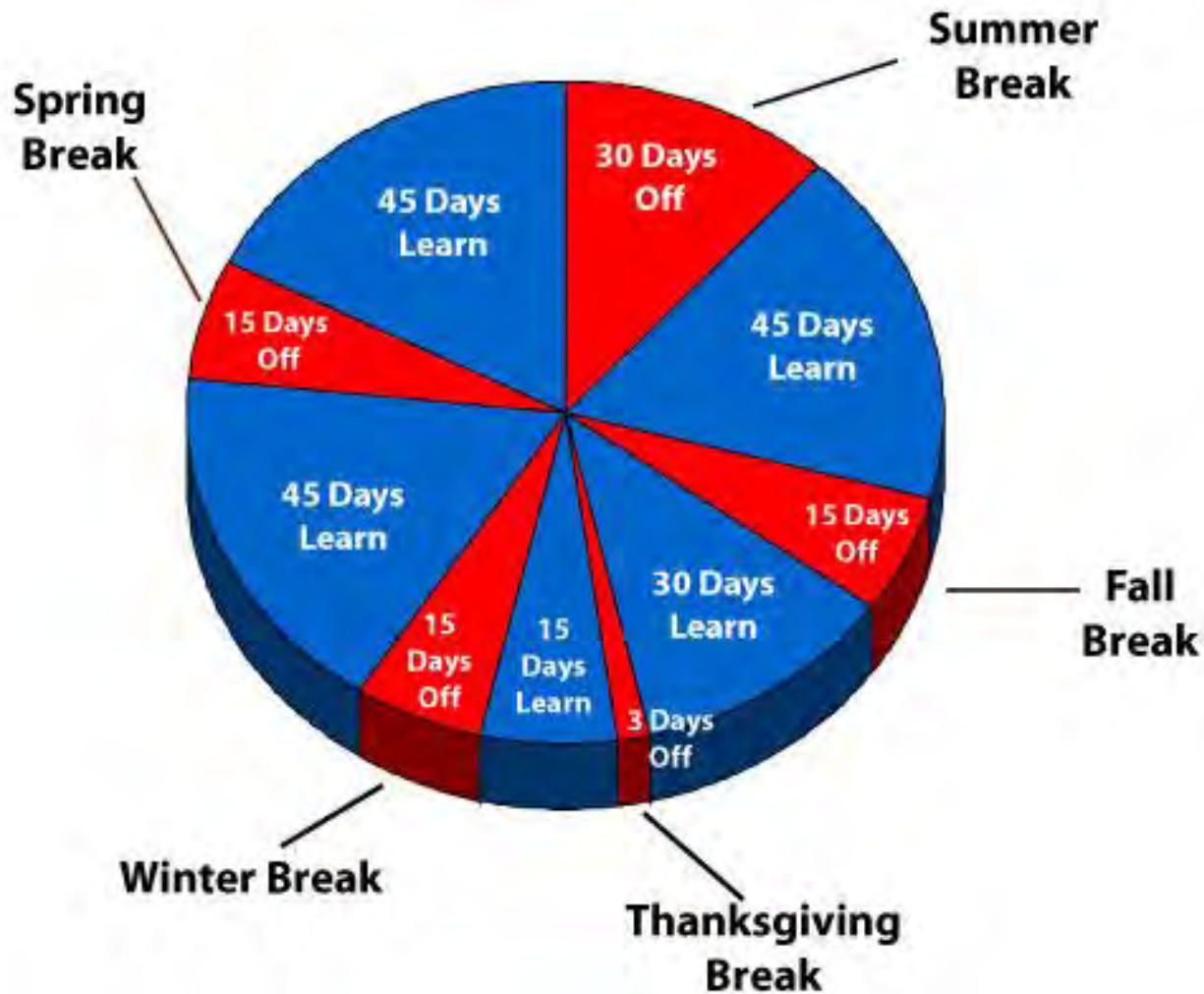


The traditional calendar features a long summer vacation of 12 weeks followed by a long period of instruction days, with the first break coming at Thanksgiving. The winter holidays are followed by 55 instruction days before a short spring break. Spring break is followed by 40 work days before the end of the school year = 180 learning days.





# Sample Modified Calendar



A modified calendar could be leveraged to reduce the long summer break and simply apportion those days throughout the school year, producing more frequent breaks and thus limiting long periods of instruction days, as well as longer vacations. Both calendars feature 180 days of instruction, with this modified calendar balancing the frequency of in-session days with vacation break days = timely supplemental learning opportunities.



# Superintendent Reykdal's Policy Priorities

*January 2021*

Substantially **shrink summer learning loss** in the long term, and **learning loss due to the pandemic** in the short term, by **balancing the school calendar...**



# Statewide Partners

**NAYRE**

National Association for Year-Round Education

*Specialists in Time and Learning*



**WASA**  
EQUITY | LEADERSHIP | TRUST | ADVOCACY



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



**AESD** ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE DISTRICTS



**AWSP**  
ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS



**WEA**  
WASHINGTON  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION

**WSSDA**

## **iGrants System 2021-22 Form Package Profile**

iGrants Form Package 173

### **Balanced/Modified School Year Calendar Pilot/Study Grant** Federal Competitive Grant

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this form package is to provide Local Education Agencies (LEAs) the opportunity to apply for pilot funds during the 21-22 school year to study a modified school year calendar approach. According to the National Association for Year-Round Education, "A modified calendar transforms traditional nine-month agrarian calendar into a calendar that allows for continuous education by shortening the summer vacation and adding more frequent breaks during the rest of the year. Those breaks may be used for "intersessions" where remediation and enhancement can occur. The shorter breaks stem learning loss and allow educators the opportunity to get the most out of the 180 days that most states mandate for instruction."



## Modified vs Balanced

A balanced calendar is a modified calendar since it is a modification to the traditional 180 continuous school year calendar (9 months of school, 3 months of summer). For the purposes of the grant, a modified calendar can take many forms depending on the needs of the District/LEA. The grant allows personnel to think about a “different” way to do things to address student need.



**Current Calendar**



190 days	Teacher Schedule
180 days	Student Instruction
0 days	Fall Break
10 days	Winter Break
5 days	Spring Break
11 weeks	Summer Break

**45/15 Balanced Calendar**



190 days	Teacher Schedule
180 days	Student Instruction
15 days	Fall Break
15 days	Winter Break
15 days	Spring Break
5 weeks	Summer Break

**45/10 Balanced Calendar**



190 days	Teacher Schedule
180 days	Student Instruction
10 days	Fall Break
15 days	Winter Break
10 days	Spring Break
7-8 weeks	Summer Break

**Toppenish School District No. 202  
2021-2022 School Calendar**

August 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						11

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						20

October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
						15

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
						15

December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						12

January 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						18

February 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
						15

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						23

April 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						15

May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
						20

June 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						16

July 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
						0

- |                           |                |                                      |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Kinder Academy & WA Kids  | August 9-10    | Holiday Break                        | December 17-31 |
| 6th & 9th Grade Academy   | August 9-10    | M. L. King Break                     | January 14-17  |
| Training Days             | August 11 & 12 | Change of Semester (91st Day)        | January 28     |
| District Staff Preservice | August 16      | Early Release                        | February 7     |
| First Day of School       | August 17      | Winter Break                         | February 21-25 |
| Early Release             | August 30      | Conferences                          | March 30-31    |
| Labor Day Break           | September 3-6  | Spring Break                         | April 1-8      |
| Early Release             | September 27   | Early Release                        | April 25       |
| Optional Day/No School    | October 1      | Early Release                        | May 23         |
| Fall Break                | October 4-8    | Memorial Day Break                   | May 27-30      |
| Conferences               | October 27-28  | Treaty Day Commemoration             | June 9         |
| Veterans' Day Break       | November 11-12 | Graduation Day                       | June 10        |
| Thanksgiving Holiday      | November 22-26 | 8th Gr Academic Achievement Ceremony | June 22        |
| Early Release             | December 6     | Juneteenth/No School                 | June 20        |
|                           |                | Last Day of School                   | June 23        |
|                           |                | Optional Training Day                | June 24        |

Yellow	Early Release Days
C	Conference Days
T	Tier III Intervention Days
P	Potential Academy Days Timeframe
Orange	Optional Days

Adoption Date: 5/25/21    Revised Date: 6/10/21

Teacher Days: 180  
Student Days: 176  
Snow Days= Remote Learning

# Modified Calendar Planning Grants & Regional Supports

<b>Western WA Region</b> <i>(ESD Regions 113, 112, 114, 121, 189)</i>	<b>Central WA Region</b> <i>(ESD Regions 105 &amp; 171)</i>	<b>Eastern WA Region</b> <i>(ESD Regions 123 &amp; 101)</i>
<b>Regional Contact</b> Dana Anderson, ESD 113 danderson@esd113.org	<b>Regional Contact</b> Kevin Chase, ESD 105 Kevin.chase@esd105.org	<b>Regional Contact</b> Darcy Weisner, ESD 123 dweisner@esd123.org
Crescent Elma Lopez Island Mount Vernon North Thurston Oakville Olympia Rainier Valley Leadership Academy Vancouver Winlock	Highland Kittitas Mount Adams Selah Soap Lake Thorp Toppenish Union Gap Wahluke Yakima	Columbia (Walla Walla)

21 current pilot grantees (funding available for up to 40!) Planning Grant Applications open through December: iGrants FP 173

[More information in OSPI Bulletin 060-22 \(8/13/21\)](#)

Resource page: <https://www.waesd.org/services/calendar/>

Contact information: [jon.mishra@k12.wa.us](mailto:jon.mishra@k12.wa.us)

# Highland - What Does Your Modified Calendar Look Like?





# Toppenish - What Does Your Modified Calendar Look Like?



# KNOW YOUR WHY

Your “why” is a reference point for decisions and actions. When you know your “why”, your “what” becomes more impactful because you’re walking towards or in your purpose.



# The Highland Why - What Motivated You To Implement A Modified Calendar?



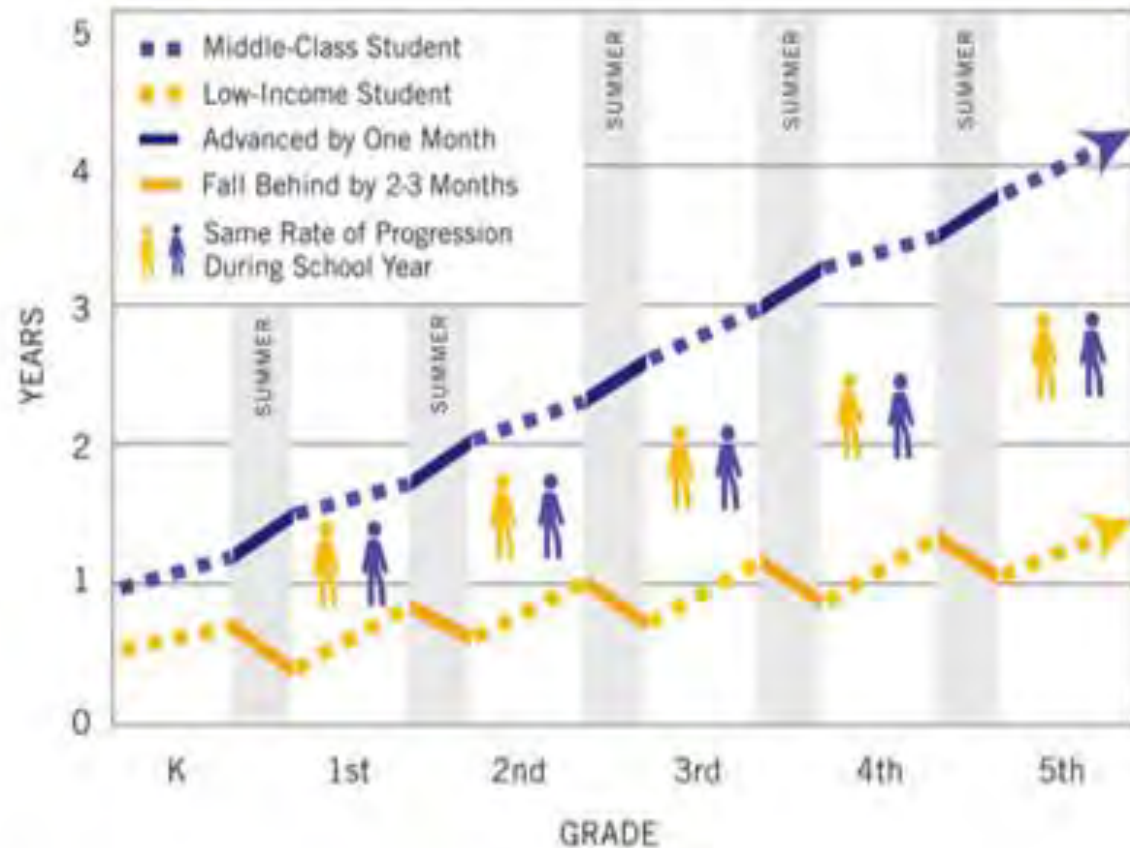
# The Toppenish Why - What Motivated You To Implement A Modified Calendar?



# The Yakima Why - What is Motivating Us To Implement A Modified Calendar?



Low-Income Students Fall 2.5 to 3 Years Behind by Fifth Grade



# Summer Learning Video



# Turn & Talk

What is your “why”  
for implementing a  
modified calendar?

What questions  
are surfacing?



# Highland - What Are The Positive Outcomes Of Your Modified Calendar?





# Toppenish - What Are The Positive Outcomes Of Your Modified Calendar?



# Board Questions to Consider:

- How does the traditional school calendar serve all students and contribute to schools becoming high-achieving and equitable places of learning that connect to their communities?
- Is the September-June academic calendar year a benefit or barrier to ALL student achievement?
- Do our supplementary (extended for some) opportunities to learn occur in a timely way that is an efficient, effective, and equitable benefit to student learning?
- How does our school calendar model our school mission?



# Politics of School Calendar Redesign: Avoid Common Pitfalls

## Understand:

**Each stakeholder needs as much time as you have had to learn about design and use of the school calendar time as student learning and teaching support (infrastructure).**

Remember needs to be a parade, not an audience. Don't get so far out front that you are by yourself.



# Opposition

- Check for Landmines: (may include Board of Education, District Office, Community, Staff [Union], parents and/or community and students). Develop a strategy to address each.
- Leadership: be inclusive; build trust through knowledge



*Ewe-Mina Proverb (modern day Benin, Ghana, and Togo)*

**“If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go  
together.”**



# Common Concerns

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Annual Summer Maintenance and Cleaning Impacted	Those activities can be scheduled during breaks throughout the year.

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Balanced Calendars Only Benefit Struggling Students	Current research shows that all students benefit from a balanced calendar



# Clarity of Goal: Clear reasons for considering calendar change that everyone accepts.

- Full facility use
- Professional development
- Improved educational opportunity for all students
- Address disproportionality and equity
- Design wrap-around system for academics, safe environment, food services
- Issues (enrollment overload) or a combination of factors appropriate for school/district planning



# Highland - How Are You Working With Your Unions?



# Toppenish - How Did You Bring People Along To Support The Modified Calendar?



Consider the “modified calendar” as part of Strategic Planning. Design policies that will promote and not inhibit district and building planning; create opportunity for K-12 building-based School Improvement Plan design.



# Create a Timeline for Study:

This timeline should include recommendations on an implementation target date (or date to revisit). Avoid (but address) personal, unsubstantiated opinion.

Stick to facts...stick to research.



Every issue is real, must be discussed, and is “addressable” in reaching consensus. Authentic conversation leads to real solutions.



Recognize that calendar redesign can be a confusing and emotional topic

- Repetition of information is critical
- Avoid voting, if at all possible – but agree/vote on the target, if necessary
- Avoid large meetings – smaller groups allow for discussion
- Parent/student support is essential – find the believers and those “not sure” (open to learning)
- Change generates resistance – research defensible as case study, statistical,
- common sense, recommendations promote reasonableness and problem-solving





BUDGET

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TAX+

TAX-

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M+

MAR

SELL

4 3 2 1 0 ADD2

F CUT 5/4



# Highland - How Will You Sustain Funding?



# Toppenish - How Will You Sustain Funding?





# “Takeaways” for Consideration

## 1. Know Your Context

- a. Neighboring Communities
- b. Your Community
- c. Families
- d. Unions

## 1. Prepare

- a. Failure to Plan is a Plan for Failure
- b. Research, Research, Research
- c. The “Why”



# Toppenish - About Your District



# Highland - How Are You Evaluating Success?



# Toppenish - How Are You Evaluating Success?

