

11/14/14

Superintendent Poore and Bentonville Board of Education Members,

As elementary building principals we would ask that you thoughtfully consider putting all ten schools on the same calendar. We would also ask you to zone the ten schools in a way that allows for growth and stability over at least the next five years.

As you consider our request, we have included some questions and data that might assist you in making a decision that is focused on what is best for students.

1. Below is the information on how many 4th grade students have been in their zoned school since Kindergarten.

School	# of current 4 th grade students in the building since Kindergarten	% of current 4 th graders
AGE	49	$49/126 = 38.89\%$
CES	63	$63/126 = 50\%$
CGE	50	$50/124 = 40.32\%$
CPE	50	$50/168 = 29.76\%$
ETE	75	$75/124 = 60.48\%$
MMJ	36	$36/109 = 33.03\%$
REB	65	$65/112 = 58.04\%$
SCE	17	$17/108 = 15.74\%$
TJE	9	$9/98 = 9.18\%$

2. Please consider the impact that rezoning and overflow has on student learning. There is a reason why the ADE removes highly mobile students' test scores when reporting to the public.
3. Consider the impact the overflow situation has on students, family, staff members, school culture, instructional delivery, and parent support.

4. The following are questions we have about the year-round calendar.
 - a. Are more families choosing the non-traditional calendar to avoid being rezoned?
 - b. Students in year-round schools have the opportunity to receive a seamless education because they will not face rezoning. What impact does this have on all students?
 - c. If the belief is that a non-traditional calendar is the right thing to do for student learning, why are we not all on a non-traditional calendar?
 - d. Other districts that have non-traditional calendar schools zone the schools based on geography. Why are we in a choice model?
 - e. Research about the impact on student learning for non-traditional calendars supports this type of calendar for students from low socio-economic backgrounds. If we believe the research to be true, why are our schools with the highest percent of disadvantaged children not the ones on a non-traditional learning calendar?

5. When looking at 10 zones, please consider first maximizing the capacity of the schools that are currently landlocked (AGE, TJE, SCE, MJES, REB). This would then leave room for the schools on the outer edges to meet the growth needs of our district.

6. If there are going to be additional elementary schools built in the next two years, we would ask that you take this into consideration as well.

Our goal is to not propose a traditional or non-traditional calendar but ask that you consider one calendar for all schools because that is best for all students.

In closing, we believe that you ran for the Bentonville Board of Education in order to make our district exceptional in every way for ALL of our students. As elementary principals, we are their voice. We have real concerns regarding zoning and appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Jacee Freeman

Mandie Byrd

Karrie Arlucklee

Kimberly

Mark Cook

Carolyn Hancock

Patricia Williams

Emily Dewey

Michelle

Lisa Johnson