IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUILT IRON STRONG

Board Briefs

INFORMATION FROM THE AUGUST 18, 2026, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board considers school calendars

The Board of Education will consider two calendars during its regular meeting Aug. 25. During its work meeting Tuesday the Board discussed the requested changes to the 2026-27 calendar. The Board also spoke at length about the four-day school week proposal and plans for the 2027-28 school year.

The Board is expected to vote on both calendars during its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m., Aug. 25. The public is invited to attend and a public comment period will be scheduled early in the meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Lance Hatch reviewed the four-day school week proposal with the board. He said the district has the go-ahead from the state. The application for a variance of school days was approved, but expires at the end of the 2028-29 school year.

He also said surveys conducted last year show support from the majority of students, parents and staff. Additionally, the majority of the board members attended at least one town hall where the district heard from parents and staff. The decision of when and if the district attempts the altered schedule is now in the Board's hands.

Board President John Taylor said most of the feedback he has received came from staff. He acknowledged that revamping a teaching schedule to one less day a week is a heavy lift. Board members agreed the topic had been discussed a lot and a decision needs to be made during the next board meeting.

Board Member Megen Ralphs — who attended electronically — said the issue has kept her up at night. Once the Board realized there was not a significant cost savings, she said, it focused more attention on the question of whether a change would significantly impact learning in a negative way.

Other board members agreed loss of learning is their biggest concern. "... We need to increase scores.… Eliminating a day of school isn't going to do that," Board Vice President Michelle Tullis said. "I don't know that it is the best thing for students."

Board Member Tyrel Eddy said he has been vocal about his support of the four-day schedule and that has not changed. He said he cannot ignore the 61% of parents who were positive about the proposal. "I don't think that the data I've looked at showed well enough an improvement or a detriment to test scores," he said. He added that students will have more instruction time on the new schedule because time would be added to the four days they would be in school.

A change is also being considered for the 2026-27 calendar because many state athletic events are scheduled to be held the week of graduation. Superintendent Dr. Lance Hatch said the district does not want to force students to make a choice between participating in their sport's playoffs or graduating.

The 2026-27 calendar issue was also discussed in the previous work meeting. The proposal is to move graduation to May 24-25. The last day of school would move to May 26. Those extra four days in session would be compensated by starting winter break two days earlier, adding a day to fall break and scheduling one other no school day.

Both administrators and board members said they have received some feedback since the issue was first discussed. Hatch said originally a no school day was added to the week of President's Day. Feedback from school staff indicated a day in April would actually be better because spring break is so early in the month and there is not a day off again until school is out.

In the future, Secondary Executive Director Roy Mathews said, administration will target graduation for the week that leads into Memorial Day weekend. As more sports are added, he said, state championships are going to push closer to that week.