

School Operations Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 3:15 PM

Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Meeting Minutes Review**
3. **Discuss Calendar Options**
4. **Make Recommendation**
5. **Adjourn**



Minutes of School Operations Committee Meeting Minnesota State Academies Board

A School Operations Committee Meeting of the Minnesota State Academies Board was held Monday, January 5, 2026, beginning at 3:15 PM in the Tate Hall Conference Room, 615 Olof Hanson Drive, Faribault, MN 55021.

Present: Annette Freiheit, Terry Wilding, Katie Wangberg, Nichelle Steffen, Heather Smisek, Brittany Thomforde, Harold Weber, Hernan Moncada, John Davis.

1. Call to Order

Chair Freiheit called the meeting to order at 3:18 pm.

2. Meeting Minutes Review

No changes.

3. Discuss Survey Results

Most respondents preferred a later spring break. However, this would not align with Faribault Public Schools (FPS) and would impact our staff who have children in FPS, as well as our students who attend FPS for classes. This misalignment could result in up to two weeks of lost instructional time.

The group agreed to align MSA's spring break with FPS and include a long weekend over Easter. Superintendent Wilding will draft a few long-weekend options and distribute a second survey for additional input.

4. Calendar Draft Recommendations

There are no construction projects that would be impacted by the school calendar. Some comments were raised regarding half-day school days, with some concern that instructional time is not always used effectively. It was noted that MEA weekend half days are used effectively for parent-teacher conferences, while other half days could be planned more intentionally. Principals will work with teachers to improve planning for the remaining half days this year and to evaluate the effectiveness of the January half day. Using a Friday schedule on half days was suggested.

For the next draft, three calendar options will be developed:

- An earlier start date with an earlier end date (before Memorial Day)
- A later start date with a later end date
- An earlier start date with additional days off or long weekends

All draft options will include required professional development days.

Several staff comments were shared regarding the length of the three-week Extended School Year (ESY) program. While no changes will be made to the ESY schedule, Superintendent Wilding will send a follow-up communication reminding staff of the rationale for moving from a two-week to a three-week ESY program.

Next steps: Superintendent Wilding will prepare draft calendars this week and distribute them for another round of voting. The results will be reviewed at the next meeting to identify a final recommendation to bring to the February Board meeting.

5. Adjourn

Adjourned at 3:38 pm.

2026-2027 (Draft #1)

Important Dates:

- *July 13-30: Summer School (ESY)*
- *August 16: MSAD FB/VB camps begin*
- *August 25-28: Teacher Workdays*
- *August 25-27: Paras/Student Life Workdays*
- *August 30: Student Check-In Day/Dorms Open*
- *August 31: First day of school/1st semester*
- *September 7: No School - Labor Day*
- *October 12: Indigenous Peoples' Day*
- *October 14: Noon Dismissal*
- *October 14: Family-Teacher Conferences*
- *October 15-16: No School - October Break*
- *November 11: Veterans Day - School in Session*
- *November 25: Noon Dismissal*
- *November 26-27: No School - November Break*
- *Dec.21-Jan.1: No School - Winter Break*
- *January 14: Last day of 1st semester*
- *January 15: No School -Teacher Workday*
- *January 18: No School - MLK Jr. Holiday*
- *January 19: First day of 2nd semester*
- *February 15: No School - Presidents Day Holiday*
- *March 8-12: No School - Spring Break*
- *March 29: No School-Teacher/Staff PD*
- *May 31: No School - Memorial Day*
- *June 4: Last day of school/2nd semester*
- *June 4: MSAB/MSAD Graduations*

2026-2027 (Draft #2)

Important Dates:

- *July 13-30: Summer School (ESY)*
- *August 10: MSAD FB/VB camps begin*
- *August 18-21: Teacher Workdays*
- *August 18-20: Paras/Student Life Workdays*
- *August 23: Student Check-In Day/Dorms Open*
- *August 24: First day of school/1st semester*
- *September 4-7: No School - Labor Day Weekend*
- *October 12: Indigenous Peoples' Day*
- *October 14: Noon Dismissal*
- *October 14: Family-Teacher Conferences*
- *October 15-16: No School - October Break*
- *November 11: Veterans Day - School in Session*
- *November 25: Noon Dismissal*
- *November 26-27: No School - November Break*
- *Dec.21-Jan.1: No School - Winter Break*
- *January 14: Last day of 1st semester*
- *January 15: No School -Teacher Workday*
- *January 18: No School - MLK Jr. Holiday*
- *January 19: First day of 2nd semester*
- *February 15: No School - Presidents Day Holiday*
- *March 8-12: No School - Spring Break*
- *March 29: No School-Teacher/Staff PD*
- *April 23: No School - Long Weekend*
- *May 10: No School - Mother's Day Weekend*
- *May 28-31: No School - Memorial Day Weekend*
- *June 4: Last day of school/2nd Semester*
- *June 4: MSAB/MSAD Graduations*

2026-2027 (Draft #3)

Important Dates:

- *July 13-30: Summer School (ESY)*
- *August 10: MSAD FB/VB camps begin*
- *August 18-21: Teacher Workdays*
- *August 18-20: Paras/Student Life Workdays*
- *August 23: Student Check-In Day/Dorms Open*
- *August 24: First day of school/1st semester*
- *September 7: No School - Labor Day*
- *October 12: Indigenous Peoples' Day*
- *October 14: Noon Dismissal*
- *October 14: Family-Teacher Conferences*
- *October 15-16: No School - October Break*
- *November 11: Veterans Day - School in Session*
- *November 25: Noon Dismissal*
- *November 26-27: No School - November Break*
- *Dec.21-Jan.1: No School - Winter Break*
- *January 14: Last day of 1st semester*
- *January 15: No School -Teacher Workday*
- *January 18: No School - MLK Jr. Holiday*
- *January 19: First day of 2nd semester*
- *February 15: No School - Presidents Day Holiday*
- *March 8-12: No School - Spring Break*
- *March 29: No School-Teacher/Staff PD*
- *May 28: Last day of school/2nd semester*
- *May 28: MSAB/MSAD Graduations*

