

Fall 2020 Engagement Objectives

- Inform the community about the proposal to align the Barcroft Elementary calendar with the calendar of all other APS schools beginning in the 2021-22 school year, moving away from the modified school year calendar (MSYC).
- Gather feedback from Barcroft staff and families regarding supports they may need to help them through the calendar transition and additional considerations to support the school community.

2002 Goals for Barcroft's Modified School Year Calendar

Adopted by the School Board in September 2002

Increase student achievement through:

- An extended learning period with a shorter summer vacation to minimize learning loss for all students
- Specialized learning programs that would take place during the three extended learning sessions

The Superintendent noted the calendar change would not incur additional costs

From Study conducted in 2019

The Modified School Year Calendar made no significant difference in student achievement

- Student achievement suggests the year-round calendar has had a neutral effect based on comparing Barcroft with the other APS Title I schools
- No significant difference in students' performance
 - English Learners assessed to be proficient or making progress, Access 2017 through 2019
 - Reading, Math, and Science passing rates, SOLs from 2015 through 2019

Direct costs to maintain the Modified School Year Calendar are significant

- Barcroft has highest per pupil cost, \$17,470 for FY 2020
- The total cost of \$676,320 is above that of the next highest school (Barrett)
- The Hanover report also states that the year-round calendar may increase district operating costs

Additional Study Findings

- Schools in neighboring districts have moved away from having modified calendars

Additional findings called out after the review of the study

Indirect costs to maintain the Modified School Year Calendar are significant

- The typical sharing of staff among schools does not work because the calendars do not align, so APS supplements Barcroft by:
 - Making part-time staffing allocations full time
 - Adding extra workdays (E-days) for Special Education services like speech and psychological and educational testing
- Synergy requires customized programming at additional cost to accommodate the modified school year calendar
- Transportation costs are higher, as bus drivers require an 11-month contract
 - Barcroft staff can focus on supporting students in July, rather than printing and mailing transportation messages ahead of other schools

Additional Rationale

- Barcroft must fill the gaps from missing out on system supports provided to all other schools in August
- Helps APS move from a system of schools to a school system
- Increased collaboration among staff
- As a result of the 2020-21 calendar being adjusted, Barcroft teachers are using resources provided for all schools in the virtual environment

Will Barcroft students who currently attend Randolph be able to stay there?

- APS will consider allowing students currently attending Randolph who reside in the Barcroft boundary to remain at Randolph, without transportation

Will Barcroft's enrollment go up as a result of realigning the calendar with the rest of the school division?

- Currently, only 5% of Barcroft students attend Randolph
- Option schools are still available for Barcroft families

September:

- Introduce calendar alignment plan and community engagement to Barcroft staff on Sept. 21 and community at Sept. 22 PTA meeting
- Launch Engage webpage on Wednesday, Sept. 23
- Hold virtual open office hours and meetings with Barcroft staff and families to answer questions:
 - Every Tuesday evening except when there is a PTA meeting
- Barcroft Community Questionnaire: Sept. 23-Oct. 11 (aligns with Elementary Boundaries Questionnaire)

October: Staff presents 2021-22 School Year Calendar to School Board

November 5: Staff presents Barcroft Calendar Realignment to School Board

November 17: School Board takes action on the Barcroft and School Year 2021-22 calendar

August 2021: Barcroft calendar for 2021-22 school year takes effect



Questions? Write to:

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