



EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date April 24, 2017

Name: GRAIG BANSEK

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Telephone: (440) 759-6872

Organization Representing: COLUMBIA LOCAL SCHOOLS

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 34

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____



COLUMBIA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administration Center
25796 Royalton Road
Columbia Station, OH 44028
(440) 236-5008

"Achieving Excellence Together"

April 24, 2017

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 34, legislation that would require Ohio Schools to begin instruction after Labor Day with some exclusions.

My name is Graig Bansek and I am the Superintendent of Columbia Local Schools in Columbia Station, Ohio. Columbia Schools services just under 900 students and employs 126 staff members that includes both teachers and support staff.

This past winter, Columbia Schools revised its previously established 2017-2018 school calendar. We initially were to begin classes on August 23, 2017. After discussion with the Board of Education and a community and parent survey, we decided to move the start to September 5, 2017. 98% of those surveyed were in favor of the later start. The decision to reevaluate the calendar was predicated on several factors but primarily was driven by extreme temperatures and humidity that exist throughout much of August and September. This has been an ongoing concern as we have seen the school year begin much earlier over the past several years due to student testing and preparation for these tests. Currently, two of the three buildings in our district are not properly equipped with modern, up-to-date HVAC systems and our classroom environment during this time can be oppressive, unsafe and not conducive to learning. Our primary concern and objective for this revision, which was supported and achieved through a joint effort of the administration, staff and parents was for the safety and well-being of our students as well as the staff that are expected to provide meaningful and effective instruction.

Other factors that drove this decision included: savings to our budget, additional time for our custodial and maintenance staff to complete their required summer projects to make our buildings safe and clean for our students, continuous feedback from our parents concerned over the early start and missing our Lorain County Fair, summer student employment and families being able to take vacation time in August.

Back in the 80's and 90's we never started school until after Labor Day. This weekend signaled the end of summer. Our students will have this opportunity beginning in a few months. I want to be perfectly clear that education is a number priority of our schools. Our students will attend school for seven hours and fifteen minutes beginning in 2017-18. This is by far the longest number of minutes for education in Lorain County and surrounding counties. We have also reduced other breaks and non important off days to make this calendar a priority. I have included a copy of our revised calendar with my testimony.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide written testimony to all of you today.

Sincerely,

Graig Bansek
Superintendent
Columbia Local Schools

www.columbia.k12.oh.us

Administration Center 25796 Royalton Road Columbia Station, Ohio 44028 PHONE 440/236-5008 FAX 440/236-8817	Columbia High School 14168 West River Road Columbia Station, Ohio 44028 PHONE 440/236-5001 FAX 440/236-3081	Columbia Middle School 13646 West River Road Columbia Station, Ohio 44028 PHONE 440/236-5741 FAX 440/236-9274	Copopa Elementary School 13644 West River Road Columbia Station, Ohio 44028 PHONE 440/236-5020 FAX 440/236-1220
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Columbia Local School District 2017-18 School Calendar



AUGUST 2017

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER 2017

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER 2017

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

NOVEMBER 2017

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 2017

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JANUARY 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Aug 29
Aug 30

Teacher Inservice
Teacher Inservice

Sept 4
Sept 5

Labor Day Holiday
1st day for students

Oct 3
Oct 13
Oct 25-26
Oct 26

Interims (21 days)
NEOEA Day - NO SCHOOL
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Early Release **K-8 at 12:00, CHS at 11:15**

Nov 3
Nov 6

End of 1st grading period - 43 days
Professional Development Day -
NO SCHOOL for students

Nov 22-24

Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL

Dec 8
Dec 25 - Jan 1

Interims (21 days)
Winter Recess - NO SCHOOL

Jan 2
Jan 3

Conference Comp Day - NO SCHOOL
School Resumes

Jan 15
Jan 19
Jan 22

Martin Luther King, Jr Day - NO SCHOOL
End of 2nd grading period - 43 days
Teacher Inservice - NO SCHOOL

Feb 16

Professional Development Day -
NO SCHOOL for students

Feb 19
Feb 22

Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
Interims (21 days)

Feb 28-Mar 1

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Mar 1
Mar 23
Mar 26-30
Mar 30

Early Release **K-8 at 12:00, CHS at 11:15**
End of 3rd grading period - 42 days
Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
Good Friday Holiday

Apr 2
Apr 3

Conference Comp Day - NO SCHOOL
School Resumes

May 1
May 25
May 28
May 31

Interims (21 days)
Commencement
Memorial Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
Last day for students; End of 4th grading
period - 42 days

June 1

Teacher Inservice (If school is in session less
than state minimum hours - start of make-
up hours. Teacher Inservice day will then be
the first day after the official last day of
school.)

FEBRUARY 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

MARCH 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

APRIL 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

MAY 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JULY 2018

MON	TUES	WED	THRS	FRI
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

ADOPTED - February 15, 2017

Student Day

No School for Students

Staff Only - No Students