

## **Verona Area School Board Resolution on School Start Date Change**

WHEREAS the State of Wisconsin by state law provides that public school districts in the State of Wisconsin cannot start school before September 1 pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 118.045;

WHEREAS the school board may commence a school term prior to September 1 if it submits a written request to the Department of Public Instruction asking for an earlier start date listing the extraordinary reasons for the earlier start date request;

WHEREAS local control over the start date would allow for additional days of instruction for students prior to state and local assessments, and preparation for the ACT and Advanced Placement exams;

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Verona Area School District to better meet the needs of its students to have breaks throughout the school to align with best practices for student learning, to decrease the rate of illnesses/absences and to increase time spent with family over the holidays;

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Verona Area School District staff to participate in professional development coursework throughout the course of the school year which is better aligned with best practices for adult learning;

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the Verona Area School District to better align its school calendar with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins in early August;

WHEREAS the impact on tourism has changed given the fact that states which traditionally comprise significant tourist influx to Wisconsin have public school start dates in early to mid-August; and

WHEREAS charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start prior to September 1 and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS the State Superintendent is recommending in his 2017-19 Biennial Budget to allow the Milwaukee Public School District to be provided an exception to this provision in the state law to allow the district to maximize learning opportunities; therefore, this opportunity should be granted for all school districts in the State of Wisconsin.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Verona Area School District is officially requesting approval to commence the school term prior to September 1 and establish local control in determining the school calendar.

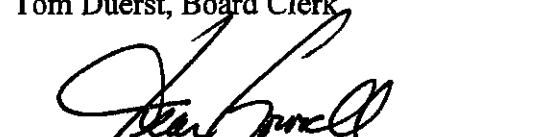
BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the Verona Area School District will be better able to educate its students because of this flexibility as greater outcomes are anticipated academically as well as preventing absenteeism.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that on February 20, 2017, the Verona Area School District passed this Resolution in order to establish local control for the school calendar by a 7-0 vote.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

  
Dennis Beres, Board President

  
Tom Duerst, Board Clerk

  
Dr. Dean Gorrell, District Superintendent