Item Briefing Number: VII-C
Meeting Date: April 11, 2016
Subject: Adoption of the Revised 2016-17 Academic Calendar
Policy or other reference: Policy IC/ID: School Year/School Day

Background: Per School Board Policy IC/ID School Year/School Day, the School Board will establish the division’s calendar, which will include at least 180 teaching days or 990 teaching hours.

Discussion: Since the 2012-13 Academic School Year, the school start date for kindergarten students has been three days later than the start date for students in grades 1-12. Consistent with other school divisions, I am recommending that we eliminate the delayed kindergarten start date effective with the 2016-17 Academic Calendar. Elementary principals will work with teachers to schedule placement testing appointments in August, as has been done for many years. This proposed change also provides 180 days of instruction for all students.

State funding formulas for Standards of Quality programs are tied to the ADM (Average Daily Membership) count. The ADM is a ratio calculation based on average daily attendance divided by the average daily membership. These formulas consider the aggregate number of days of attendance of all students and the aggregate number of days of membership of all students, divided by the number of days school is in session during the year. By delaying the start date of kindergarten students by three days, state funding is less because we have approximately 200 kindergarten students not reporting attendance for three days.

The 2016 General Assembly changed lottery funded programs to include a Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Allocation revenue for school systems, based on ADM. For FY2017, this revenue equals $83,162 based on an ADM of 2,570. For FY2018, this revenue source equals $356,049, based on the same ADM of 2,570, which is more than quadruple the amount in FY2017.

It is important to take advantage of all funding formulas that consider ADM as the basis for funding, which now includes a lottery amount per pupil allocation, based on ADM. For example, a difference of five students in state funding equals a loss of $23,530 in FY2017, and $24,444 in FY2018. Given that the General Assembly can change the funding formulas each year, we should maximize our state funding based on attendance and membership counts for each day.

Suggested Motion: I move that the School Board approve the Revised 2016-17 Academic Calendar to include a common start date for preschool and K-12 students.