

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1438

2007 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1438

## 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **HB 1438**

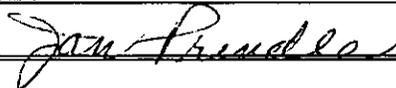
House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **22 January 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **1518**

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Representative Mark Dosch, District 32**, introduced the bill to legislate the start of school to the week after Labor Day. **(Testimony Attached.)** Of the many reasons for starting after Labor Day, the most important is family.

**Representative Hunskor:** There are a couple of concerns that I have. What about dual credit? Colleges open their doors in August and that could be problem. The second concern has to do with AYP. This would shorten the number of days we have to prepare for that battery of tests.

**Representative Dosch:** I guess it boils down to a few days between making the grade and not making the grade on these tests. I call that into question. I would hope that a few days or one week is not going to make a difference on that.

**Representative Herbel:** I appreciate the concern about the quality family time. At the same time if we start school late, you are going to lose Christmas vacation time which also gives you the opportunity to have some of that quality time.

**Representative Dosch:** In talking with several people on this, there are some days that could be given up. President's Day is when a lot of people go skiing so you don't want to mess with that. There are a lot of other days during the course of the school year that could be taken and you don't have to make it all up during the school year. You could take one or two days off

Christmas vacation. You can add one or two days at the end of the school year. A few days into the summer would not matter too much.

**Representative Francis Wald, District 37** testified in favor of the bill. I encourage you to support the bill to start school after Labor Day. Having raised and educated 3 children in Dickenson in both public and private settings, it was always a handicap when families planned vacations. It is time to address parents' requests rather than administration. We ought to accommodate the tax payer in this area rather than some special interest groups. I would highly encourage this committee to give favorable consideration to starting school after Labor Day.

**Representative Herbel:** As far as getting ready for football, etc. If we move the school year back are you suggesting we move the athletic season as well? In the past it has been difficult to do that.

**Representative Wald:** I think we could do that. Maybe we ought to have more emphasis on academics and less on athletics.

**Senator Elroy Lindaas, District 20,** testified in favor of the bill. It has been said that this bill is a greed-driven ploy by the tourism industry. It has been said it is anti-education. I wish to refute those claims. On November 17, 2006, there appeared an article in the Minot Daily News saying "starting school after Labor Day would cause problems." In the article they listed a few reasons why it would be a good idea. The first and largest paragraph was devoted to the impact on sports. When someone says it takes away local control, I would say that has already been given to the ND Activities Association. I appreciate that high school sports are a wonderful activity and lessons learned on the playing field are valuable. However, sports should not drive the academic schedule. If sports were taken out of this equation, there would not be this discussion. It is said it takes a few days to get the students into a productive

learning mode. I submit that factor is true whenever the school years begin. The vacation in regards to temperature is far better in August than early June. The young folks that work summer jobs have to quit in mid August, often leaving employers short handed and projects delayed. August is the time that most families take a well earned vacation. Family vacations create memories and strengthen those bonds. Most of us think our summers are too short anyway without giving up the last half of August. When our children left for school in August, I always felt a sense of loss. Do not look upon this movement as a greed-driven ploy by tourism industry but rather a preference that people want a full complete summer vacation. With our very short summers people want to spend the time with their families or leisure. The paper also took a poll. As of November 17 it shows that 77% of those polled wanted to start school after Labor Day. It is good for our economy, the tourist industry and, most of all, our ND families.

**Additional testimony IN FAVOR OF HB 1138 (Attached):**

**Bill Shallhoob, chairman, Tourism Alliance Partnership**

**Randy Hatzenbuhler, president, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation**

**Cole Carley, Fargo-Moorehead Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**Sara Otte Coleman, ND Department of Commerce – Tourism Division**

**Nicki Weissman, executive director of the ND Hospitality Association**

**Dave MacIver, president of the ND Chamber of Commerce**

**Marie Effertz Hanson, president of the ND Nature and Rural Tourism Association**

**Teri Theiel, executive director of the Dickenson Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**Teri Onsgard, director of sales, Fargo Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**Julie Rygg, executive director, Grand Forks Convention & Visitor Bureau**

**Kyle Blanchefield, owner, Woodland Resort**

**Sandy Clarke, ND Farm Bureau**, testified in favor of HB 1438 although many of our farmers and ranchers are still harvesting and hauling hay in August. Agriculture has a shortage of farm labor and starting school after Labor Day will allow children of agricultural producers to help out on the farm and at the same time other students could continue to work for a longer time period.

**Representative Hunsakor:** Isn't it a trade off. Farmers need kids as much in the spring as the fall.

**Clarke:** Both time frames are important but harvest issues are more hectic than spring planting. There was a time in our school year when parent teacher conferences were held at night not during the day and there might be flexibility.

**Peter Luvis, from Hillsboro**, testified in favor of the bill. The last week in August is very precious. Everybody wants it. I think the family should have it. The weather in the last week of August is always better than the last week of May or the first week in June. The last week in August is a wonderful week for grain harvesting in wet years and for family trips in dry years. Either way, the whole family needs to be involved. I realize the football season has a program and games need to be played. Spring sports could certainly benefit from a longer season. Changing school calendars is not easy. Compromises can be made. My kids are grown and my wife has died—all I remember is the family trips.

**Robert Harms, ND Hospitality Association**, testified in favor of the bill. The bill sets the right policy for our state. The hospitality industry relies in a large part on young people to serve our customers. Approximately 2,500 young people ages 14 to 18 join the workforce each year after school ends. ND puts tourism among its top economic sector. These young people have to provide labor at farms, ranches, hotels, cafés gas stations.

**Chairman Kelsch** suspended the order of testimony in order to allow a student who needed to get back to classes to testify.

**Makala ( unintelligible), student, eighth grade student at Wachter Middle School,** testified in **opposition** to the bill. I do not want to have to go to school until the middle of June.

**Vice Chairman Meier:** We appreciate your testifying. You did a very nice job. What are some of the reasons you oppose this bill.

**Makala:** It is harder to sit through the springtime as soon as it gets warm outside I want to go outside.

**Representative Hunskor:** Do you think it's true in May or the early part of June that you would get as much out of your classes as you would in August or September.

**Makala:** I do think that's true. When it becomes summertime, I really want to go outside.

**Vice Chairman Meier:** Have you visited with your fellow classmates on this subject.

**Makala:** I asked my science class and they all said the same.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Thank you very much for testifying for us. I know it is difficult, especially for young people and we thank you.

Testimony In favor of HB 1438 (as listed previously) continued with Dave McIver.

**Opposition:**

**Bev Nielson, ND School Boards Association. (Testimony Attached.)**

**Representative Herbel:** If 76% want a start after Labor Day, are school boards seeing pressure from the public?

**Nielson:** We are heard that from any of our school boards.

**Representative Hanson:** How many schools in ND start after Labor Day?

**Nielson:** One, Marmot. (An elementary school without athletics.) Most start the third week of August.

**Doug Johnson, ND Council of Higher Educational Leaders (Testimony Attached.)**

**Representative Mueller:** What is your experience when family says they have a planned vacation the first week of school?

**Johnson:** We accommodate them by asking students to do some of their school work in advance or making it up later.

**Dean Bard, representing the small organized schools,** testified in opposition to the board.

We see this every year. We wish we could accommodate the business community but in the interest of local control we cannot. This decision is best made by the school district itself.

Schools are free now to start after Labor Day. They are not doing it. Obviously there must be a good reason for that. There is a recommendation that came from the P-16 Task Force to extend the school year by three days. It's going to be a challenge without being committed to starting after Labor Day.

**Wilfred Volesky, superintendent of the Mandan School District,** testified in opposition to the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

**Representative Hunskor:** AYP. In your judgment does starting later impact that?

**Volesky:** Certainly that's a big factor. We begin testing in October. A lot of things hinge on it but the biggest thing is the outcome of the student's academic performance on those tests.

The earlier you can begin in the fall and the more days you have in preparation for those tests, is certainly something that is very valuable to students.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Have you had anyone in your community asking to start school earlier?

**Volesky:** I have only been there a short time but, no, there has been no one. We gave people an opportunity to respond to our proposed calendar but we had no responses.

**Al Liebersback, superintendent of the Beulah School District,** testified in Opposition to the Bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

**Paul Johnson, superintendent of the Bismarck School District**, testified in opposition to the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

**Kayla Pulvermacher, representing the ND Farmer's Union**, testified in opposition to the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

**Maurice Hardy, representing the Beach School Board**, testified in opposition to the bill. **(Testimony Attached.)**

**Nick Whitman, NDEA**, testified in opposition to the bill. I stand with my colleagues in opposing this bill. As far as local control being a myth, as it currently stands, most calendars are created with the employees who will be working those calendars—that's the 8000 members of the NDEA, who are there in the best interest of the children.

**Gerald Christianson, superintendent in Tappen**, testified in opposition to the bill. In the interest of brevity, he only stated he was opposed.

**Chairman Kelsch closed the hearing of HB 1438.**

At a later time on the same day Chairman Kelsch opened discussion on HB 1438.

**Representative Mueller: I move a Do Not Pass on HB 1438.**

**Representative Johnson: I second**

**DISCUSSION:**

**Representative Herbel:** Proponents of this bill brought in the results of a survey that said 70 – 75% of people surveyed were in favor of starting school before Labor Day. Had the survey said that June would continue through June 10, I wonder what the results would have been.

We saw how the kids that were in here this morning said that they would prefer to start earlier and finish earlier. My concern is this does nothing for the kids. The reality is that ND has the

shortest school year in the nation and that needs to end. Kids are more enthusiastic at the beginning of the year.

**Representative Johnson:** I support the Do Not Pass. In August tourism starts dropping off. In discussions I had in my district, all except one supported leaving this as it was. One school did begin after Labor Day but went back to an earlier start.

**Representative Hunskor:** The bottom line is kids come first. I talked to kids and they were nearly unanimous in preferring an early start. They are ready to go to school in August. In May they start a downward slide. Another consideration is preparation for the AYP.

**Representative Sukat:** I will vote no on this motion. I agree that kids come first but I must speak for business. They are the ones that pay the bill. We live in a world of change and this change could come about. It is not a good policy to discredit the wishes of business and industry in the state.

**Representative Mueller:** I understand Representative Sukat's concern. This will end up creating a lot of different changes. The expansion of the school year should happen. We are going to have to cut some vacation days. Christmas would be a tough one. We need to look at priorities and that's education.

**Representative Haas:** There are a lot of misconceptions we use to rationalize leaving things as they are. Every one will adjust and the kids will not suffer. We have a reluctance to change. Dual credit institutions would find a way to make this work. It's one of the most important recruiting tools universities have. There is also nothing sacred about not going beyond Memorial Day. We cannot lock into tradition. We need to look at reasonable alternatives.

**Chairman Kelsch:** Where were those 70% answering the survey today. We saw only special interest groups. The only citizen who testified was a student and she was against the

early start. Right now nothing precludes school starting earlier. It is up to individual districts to establish their start dates. Medora school district has not pushed to change their start date to after Labor Day. Dual credit would change. I'm not sure colleges would work together and it is too difficult for students to make up classes if they miss them.

Representative Sukat brings up a good point, but there were business and industry representatives on the P-16 Task Force and the start of the school issue was not brought up as an issue by them.

**Representative Haas:** They were interested in taking a hard look at the quality of the work force. This item was not discussed.

**Representative Herbel:** I do not believe I would spend more money in ND if school started later. I will determine how much money I have to spend and spend it at different times of the year. I think this would have a more positive impact in MN. I don't think it has the economic impact suggested.

**Chairman Kelsch:** (Speaking to the organizational representatives in the audience.) Please canvass your membership and suggest to them that they have an option to start later and it may be a good thing to consider.

**A roll call vote was taken: Yea: 12, Nay: 1, Absent: 0**

**The Do Not Pass on HB 1438 prevailed.**

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 01/17/2007

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1438

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Appropriations</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

No fiscal impact.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

No fiscal impact.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

No fiscal impact.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

No fiscal impact.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

No fiscal impact.

<b>Name:</b>	Gary Gronberg	<b>Agency:</b>	Public Instruction
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-1240	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	01/19/2007

Date: 22 Jan 07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1438

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Mueller Seconded By Johnson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓		Rep Hanson	✓	
V Chairman Meier	✓		Rep Hunskor	✓	
Rep Haas	✓		Rep Mueller	✓	
Rep Herbel	✓		Rep Myxter	✓	
Rep Johnson	✓		Rep Solberg	✓	
Rep Karls	✓				
Rep Sukat		✓			
Rep Wall	✓				

Total Yes 12 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Mueller

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
January 22, 2007 2:56 p.m.

Module No: HR-14-0983  
Carrier: Mueller  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1438: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS**  
(12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1438 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1438

Madam Chair and members for the Education Committee for the record my name is Mark Dosch District 32 Bismarck. I come before you today to voice my support for this bill.

My oldest son Isaac graduates from high school this year. The planning to head off to college is well under way. Next year at this time he will be far away from home.

It seems like only yesterday that we walked him into that kindergarten class, excited, a little nervous. But the next years seemed to fly by. Where has the time gone? The time we had together as a family now seems so short. The time at the lake together not nearly enough. The campouts with the Boy Scouts too few.

Kids today seem to grow up too fast. The pressures of life are put upon them at an earlier and earlier age. Kids are tore in multiple directions between school, clubs, sports and other extra activities. Families are too busy to eat meals together, much less spend quality time together.

Even summers are crowded now with traveling teams of every sort. Summer camps for basketball, football, baseball, soccer, and music. Even summer school fills their schedule taking classes so they can take AP classes during the regular school season.

Between all this, our family actually had two weeks together out of the entire summer. Are we really doing what is best for our kids?

**Although I believe there are many good reasons for starting after Labor Day, there is none more important than for the family.**

For those of you who have already sent your kids out into the world, you know what I mean. Time is so short.

When making this decision to support this bill or not, I hope you ask yourself just one question. If you had to do it all over again, would you want to spend more time or less time with you kids? My first child hasn't even left the house yet, and I know how I would answer that question.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask for your support of this bill.

1438  
22 Jan 07

# North Dakota

## Tourism Alliance Partnership

P.O. Box 2599  
Bismarck, ND 58502  
(701) 355-4458  
FAX (701) 223-4645

### MEMBERS

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Bismarck-Mandan CVB
- Buffalo City Tourism
- Destination Marketing Association of North Dakota
- Devils Lake CVB
- Dickinson CVB
- Fargo-Moorhead CVB
- Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation
- Grand Forks CVB
- International Peace Garden
- Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation
- MDU Resources Group, Inc.
- Municipal Airport Authority of the City of Fargo
- ND Aeronautics Commission
- ND Cowboy Hall of Fame
- ND Rural and Nature Tourism Association
- ND Tourism Division
- Newman Outdoor Advertising
- Norsk Hostfest
- Odyssey Communications Group
- Select Inn of Bismarck
- Spirit Lake Casino and Resort
- State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation
- Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
- Woodland Resort, Inc.

Testimony of Bill Shalhoob  
Chairman, Tourism Alliance Partnership  
HB 1438  
January 22, 2007

Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee, my name is Bill Shalhoob and I am here today representing TAP as its chairman and myself as the managing partner of the Select Inn Bismarck. I am here asking for your support for HB 1438, the post Labor Day school opening bill.

This is a familiar issue for many of us. After our narrow loss last session, one of my goals as TAP's chairman was to assess the feeling of North Dakotans to see if we were in step with fellow citizens on this issue. To that end, we commissioned a scientific poll which was conducted by DH Research last September. The results of the poll, which has a plus or minus in accuracy of 4.9% and is attached to my testimony, reinforced the fact that we are exactly in sync with the majority of citizens. The important number is that without those respondents that held no opinion 76% of North Dakotans favor a post Labor Day school start. This number cuts across all age groups and all is equal in feeling in all parts of the state. Based on these results, we felt we had to bring the issue forward again and have tried to raise its visibility to a level that matches the measured desire of the people of North Dakota.

I have four firm beliefs on this matter. First, since 11 states already have some form of Labor Day opening and eight others, including North Dakota, are considering it, it is not impossible or world ending to implement the concept. Eleven other state's administrators and school boards have found a way. I believe our administrators and board members are just as bright as their counterparts in these eleven states and will find an acceptable way to implement the change. Second, learning is learning. I cannot accept the concept that it is easier or harder to learn in August vs. June. If spring or summer learning is impossible why do we bother with May terms, summer school or continuing education programs that are scheduled between May 20 and August 20. Good teachers and students will have meaningful classroom experiences any time of the year. Third, as a parent and now a grandparent, I find the current schedule nonsensical. Last year we had to be back in Bismarck to prepare for an August 23<sup>rd</sup> school start. We lost eleven days of potential vacation time only to take a long weekend at Labor Day. And fourth, a day in August is three times as valuable as a day in May or even early June for vacations and for business. The weather is much more predictable and much more conducive to travel. Yes, there is an economic benefit for the tourism industry. I see a 33% drop in my business starting the weekend before school is scheduled to open. These prime lost days would be meaningful for a small North Dakota business like mine and many others like me. Given all of the reasons to pass this bill, the economic benefit of adding more tax revenue to the treasury is simply the icing on the cake.

Madame Chairwoman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify. I urge your support for HB 1438 and would be happy to answer any questions.

**Tourism Alliance Partnership**  
*School Start Research Results*  
*November 14, 2006*

*Conduct of Study*

Between September 25 and September 29, 2006, DH Research conducted 400 telephone interviews with residents across North Dakota. The overall margin of error for this study was  $\pm 4.90\%$ .

*Executive Summary*

- ❖ Of those with an opinion about the school start date in North Dakota, nearly three-fourths (71%) would prefer to have school begin after Labor Day.
  - Of the total respondents,
    - A majority (62.25%) of residents would rather have the school year start after Labor Day.
    - One-fourth (25.75%) preferred an August start date.
    - Twelve percent did not have an opinion.
  
- ❖ Of those with an opinion about legislation requiring North Dakota schools to begin after Labor Day, over three-fourths (76%) would support the legislation.
  - Of the total respondents,
    - Two-thirds (66.00%) of residents would support legislation requiring North Dakota schools to begin after Labor Day.
    - More than one in four (29.75%) would strongly support it.
    - One-sixth (16.25%) would support it.
    - One-fifth (19.75%) would somewhat support it.
  
- ❖ One-fifth (21.00%) would not support legislation requiring that schools begin after Labor Day.
  - Less than one in 10 (8.75%) would somewhat oppose it.
  - Five and one-half percent would oppose it.
  - Five and one-half percent would strongly oppose it.

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07

**Testimony of Randy Hatzenbuhler**  
**Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation President**  
**HB 1438**  
**January 22, 2007**

Madam Chair and Members of the Education Committee,

I am Randy Hatzenbuhler, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. I ask you to support HB 1438 to have school begin the day after Labor Day. I believe this bill is a win-win-win.

Others from the tourism industry will provide information that will explain the economics of this bill and how it benefits the tourism industry. I concur that the bill is clearly good for tourism. An independent survey done in August 2006 strongly indicates that North Dakotans want this change. 76% of the people who had an opinion on the subject said they would support legislation to have school start after Labor Day.

In the past 15 months I met with Joint Powers Associations and School Boards in Dickinson, Jamestown, Valley City, Fargo, Minot, Tioga and Washburn. Usually, I was able to sit in on 30 to 60 minutes of their business meeting. It was interesting to observe that individually many representatives found merit to the legislation. They raised three consistent points of concern with this legislation shown below:

- 1. Starting after Labor Day would make it impossible for dual credit opportunities for high school students. **Response:** Higher education will want to solve the needs of their student / "customers." Is there any reason to doubt that they would not be able to solve it?
- 2. Local control is absolutely necessary. **Response:** Local control is a myth. The list of things that are not within the local control for schools is lengthy: Foundation aid, requirements for curriculum, issues related to No Child Left Behind, class schedules set by ITV are just a few things that are not controlled locally. Why has the school starting date become the mantra for local control when it comes to the education system?
- 3. This decision should be made by educators. **Response:** The decision should be made by those interested in education. Parents and businesses are extremely interested; their voices simply are not being heard. Who makes the decision is irrelevant so long as it benefits all involved, particularly the students.

I am convinced that the opposition to this legislation sincerely wants what is best for the students. As do I. It is very possible that the greatest beneficiary of this legislation will be education. There will be greater economic resources and human resources for education. There is tremendous time and energy spent just in setting school calendars. How would that time be spent if it was not necessary?

One of my favorite quotes is "There is nothing more wasteful than creating efficiencies in tasks that don't need to be done." No matter how efficient or effective any one school is, in setting its school calendar, it is inherently inefficient because every school must school currently do so. It is a task that doesn't need to be done.

I urge you to make the courageous decision to support HB 1438. This is one that two years from now, we will look back and say, families won, education won, and business won.

Respectfully,



HB 1438  
20 Jan 07

Testimony of Cole Carley  
Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Co-founder: ND Tourism Alliance Partnership  
House Bill 1438  
January 22, 2007

Economics trumps Education.

Tourism versus Teaching.

That's how some people would position this bill. It's not true. That is not the way it is. Everyone connected with this bill and everyone I know in tourism is a staunch supporter of education. People in our industry know that there is no better investment we can make in the future of North Dakota than education. This bill has nothing to do with the quality of education.

There are, we admit, some economic reasons for this bill. But this is also about North Dakota families and what they want.

We also wish to be quite clear that we are not advocating any limits to the size of the school year. Attendance days are obviously the rightful responsibility of local school districts and the Department of Education. Our industry supports only the idea that school should begin after Labor Day. Control of curriculum and class days should be left to the discretion of educators and their boards.

Others may say that this is an attempt to circumvent local control of schools. Not so. Local control of the school year is something that has been, for some years, a myth. And outside of a legislative hearing, many administrators would confirm that.

The fall athletic season and joint-powers agreements and external events have more to do with the school calendar than quality of education.

We also think that most administrators are more concerned about a possible disconnect between K-12 and the college year, because of dual-credit classes for high school students and the start of summer sessions for continuing education teacher credits, not local control.

Let's talk first of all about economics. It would mean millions of dollars for North Dakota businesses that are a part of the tourism industry, one of the state's largest economic generators. And every million in revenue means \$50,000 in sales taxes going to the general fund, not to mention other taxes that would bring higher yields. July and August are the peak months for tourism and family travel: Our version of Christmas for retailers. Currently, attendance at our major attractions and festivals drops like a rock in mid-August because of early school starts.

This affects not only the businesses themselves but the availability of workers at both the high school and college level. Students earning money during the summer see a precipitous drop in their earning ability shortly after mid-August.

The economic impact of a post-Labor Day start date in Minnesota has been estimated more than three-quarters of a billion dollars.

As a result of Michigan adopting a post-Labor Day school start, the University of Michigan estimates that tax revenue generated by this legislation is \$4 million conservatively as a result of over \$70 million in additional direct travel allowed by a delayed school start date.

The economic effect is unquestionable. The question is: How big?

But economics isn't the only reason to approve this bill. The other is families.

From a family perspective, vacation planning is getting squeezed more and more between early-summer camps, clinics, or other events and school starts that have pushed into mid-August.

Giving families all of August to schedule vacations will provide busy moms, dads, and kids more time to enjoy time together. Two-career couples have found it increasingly difficult to match work schedules and school starts to allow for family vacation time.

In September, the Tourism Alliance Partnership commissioned a study of North Dakotans. It asked two questions: When do you want the North Dakota school year to start and would you support legislation to that effect?

The results were:

- 62% of residents would rather have the school year start after Labor Day.
- 26% preferred an August start
- 12% didn't have an opinion

66% of residents would support post-Labor Day school start legislation

Legislators have been pulled this way and that regarding school starts. Here, at last, is a reliable research instrument that shows how North Dakota families feel about the start of the school year. Not tourism people, not school administrators: North Dakota families. Our intention was to take this subject from the "we think/they think" debate and give legislators a credible piece of research, letting you know how your constituents feel, to assist you in making your decision.

This bill is an idea whose time has come. Let's return the Labor Day weekend to real "family event" status instead of an interruption to the new school year. Let's give August back to families and, in the process, help North Dakota's economy as a bonus.

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07

Testimony of Sara Otte Coleman  
North Dakota Department of Commerce – Tourism Division  
House Bill 1438  
January 22, 2007

Chairman Kelsch and members of the committee, I am Sara Otte Coleman – the director of the Tourism Division for the North Dakota Department of Commerce. I am here today urging your support of HB 1438.

During the last several summers, I have been surprised by the number of North Dakotans who made a point to talk to me and express their frustration with the fact the once we finally get summer weather the kids go back to school. The boats, campers, jet skis and bikes that didn't see enough use were being put back into storage. The quality family time at the lake, in the parks or even at home was coming to a quick end. Parents, grandparents, teachers and businesspeople agreed, saying: "This can't be good for tourism... and this isn't good for our families or our kids either. Can't you get that changed? Summer is getting shorter and shorter!"

The interest from North Dakotans outside of the tourism industry prompted the research done by the Destination Marketing Association of North Dakota and the Tourism Alliance Partnership. What the study found was that 3 out of 4 of those with an opinion strongly favored a uniform school start date after Labor Day. The study used a solid sample across all demographics. It also showed the support from the general ages of parents and grandparents was even stronger.

As tourism director, I know this makes sense. Tourism is the second largest and fastest growing industry in North Dakota. It employs over 31,200 North Dakotans, and many students. Visitation numbers at 10 of our major attractions around North Dakota show that a day in late August has 2.7 times more economic value compared to a day in late May. In 2003, visitation dropped 55% between the last week in August and the first week in September. In 2004, we measured a 36% drop in those same 10 attractions between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of August and another 28% decline between the last week in August and the 1<sup>st</sup> week in September. Our most recent in-depth travel research indicated that we had 5.7 million overnight trips. These trips generated more than one-million dollars. These dollars were spent on accommodations, retail, food, transportation and recreation. Of these trips, 32% were taken by North Dakotans – traveling in North Dakota. And approximately 38% are 25-44 years of age (parents of school age children).

I did not compare recent visitation numbers for the simple reason that we all agree on the economics, what we don't necessarily understand is the other benefits for North Dakotans.

A uniform statewide school start date will save the hundreds of hours that our school administrators and school board members spend trying to appease their many constituents as they plan their annual school calendar. We all understand the need to manage our own

local resources; however the theory of local control is eroded with athletic schedules and joint-powers agreements.

The experiences our youth get working summer jobs in North Dakota strengthens their ties to our state. This creates an interest in North Dakota's strongest industries and local businesses and offers excellent work experience and mentorship opportunities.

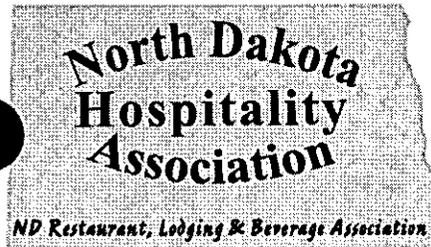
There is no evidence that kids learn better in August. Many states have adapted their calendars to the needs of their climates and their families.

Waiting until after Labor Day to begin school helps tourism businesses, parks, attractions and entertainment venues keep their employees so they can stay open longer for in-state and out-of-state visitors alike. This will allow tourism to continue to raise more dollars not only for tourism proprietors but also for the state – to help fund critical needs like education.

Like most of you, I wear many hats: As a parent I know this makes sense. My kids didn't have many swimming lessons in past summers, because by the time the thermometer broke 70 degrees the lifeguards and staff had all left their summer jobs and school was starting. Then we learn of schools needing to take their weather days in the fall because of the heat and lack of air conditioning.

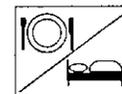
As a farm-ranch wife I know this makes sense. In mid-August small grain harvest is seldom completed and we still have thousands of acres of corn and sunflowers to harvest and the kids we hire are back in school.

I urge you to support HB 1438, there are few bills that cost the state nothing, yet could yield the state so much in return.



## ND's Restaurant, Lodging & Beverage Association

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07



P.O. Box 428 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • Phone: 701-223-3313 • Fax: 701-223-0215  
E-mail: ndha@btinet.net • www.ndhospitality.com

Education Committee  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
January 22, 2007

### HB 1438

Chairwoman Kelsch and members of the Committee, my name is Nicki Weissman and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Hospitality Association. We have 350 members in North Dakota who are engaged in the hospitality industry.

The North Dakota Hospitality Association supports HB 1438.

The bill sets the right policy for our state.

1. The hospitality industry relies in large part on young people to serve our customers. Approximately 2500 young people (14-18) join the work force once school ends. Those numbers are even greater when considering the college age students that return to college in mid-August. This loss of work force short changes our state and the tourism industry that represents one of the key sectors in our states economy. Like the Fargo Forum said “

*“North Dakota puts tourism among its top economic sectors, yet shortchanges parks, motels, restaurants, gasoline stations, bait shops and everyone else associated with tourism by starting school before Labor Day.”*

But, it goes beyond just tourism, and reaches other parts of our economy as well, including our agriculture and energy sector, both of which loose part of its work force as a result of the pre-Labor Day school starting date. (These young people help to provide

labor on our farms and ranches, cafes, hotels, gas stations and provide a significant part of the labor force in western North Dakota where labor markets are exceptionally tight.

Other states (such as Minnesota) have made the change to starting after Labor Day with great success (estimated at \$750 million economic activity annually).

2. The bill would be even more useful if it directed both K-12 and the ND University system to start after Labor Day, further coordinating our states entire education system and buttressing the economy that they both rely on.

3. Some will say we should not approve HB 1438 in deference to “local control”. I say:

a.) If we defer to “local control”, then we will never have a school calendar that begins after Labor Day.

b.) Local control is a myth, because the ND High School Athletics Association is more influential in setting the school calendar than local school boards. Our states school policy should be set by thoughtful policy choice that serves the public interest, not by the state basketball tournament schedule.

c.) Finally, even to the extent we defer to “local control”, it should not be a sacred mantra that keeps us from setting the correct policy for our state.

For these reasons we ask for a DO PASS on HB 1438.

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07



**Testimony of Dave MacIver  
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
Presented to the  
House Education Committee  
January 22, 2007**

**HB 1438**

Ms. Chairman and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Dave MacIver, president of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. The ND Chamber also represents 16 local chambers with a total of 7,236 members. A list of those chambers is attached. We urge you to **support HB 1438**.

The State Chamber was founded in 1924 as an organization to attract tourists and settlers to North Dakota and to promote agriculture. Even in 1924, business leaders recognized the positive economic impacts that attracting people could create in North Dakota, and made plans to improve the state's highways and to establish a national park in the Badlands.

Today, nearly 80 years later, the North Dakota Chamber still supports this important industry. Growth in this business sector means growth in connected industries such as Information Technology and Food Processing.

Tourism has been identified as one of the industries with the greatest growth potential in North Dakota. It is one of the target industries identified by the Governor and this legislation would really help advance this industry.

According to the recent study released by from the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at North Dakota State University, expenditures by out-of-state visitors (including tourists) in 2004 was \$3.4 billion. According to F. Larry Leistritz, when these expenditures are applied to the NDSU input-output model, the estimated total economic impact to the state economy that number more than doubles.

Just to illustrate the positive economic impacts this would have in North Dakota, I have included economic information collected from other states in the nation.

## School Start Dates & Economic Impacts

- A recent study conducted by the University of Missouri and the Department of Economic Development found that **Missouri** loses \$1.58 million per day in tax revenue generated by tourism for every day that school is in session before Labor Day (2006).
- The **Texas** Comptroller's office estimates that extending the summer break by two weeks would generate an additional \$28 million per day for the state's tourist destinations; \$392 million for the two additional weeks. She found that the cost of the school calendar being lengthened and beginning earlier than Labor Day costs \$790 million annually to the Texas economy (2004).
- One conservative scenario estimates economic and tax revenue impacts where as little as 4 out of 10 families with children in **South Carolina** take one additional vacation if August summer vacation were restored; plus induced additional families from in-state and out-of-state family vacations, would generate \$180 million in total economic impact, \$6.03 million in State tax revenues, \$2.34 million in local tax revenues, and \$8.37 million in total State and local tax revenues (University of South Carolina, 2002).
- If the start of the public school year were delayed by only ten (10) days in the month of August in **North Carolina**, this could produce additional revenues of \$377.5 million per year. When considering the additional impact of the economic multiplier effect, it is quite possible that an additional \$880 million in economic activity could be generated, which would result in \$1.26 billion per year in economic growth (East Carolina University, 2004).
- Tax revenue generated by the adoption of **Michigan** legislation that requires K-12 public schools to open after Labor Day is estimated at \$4 million conservatively. This \$4 million was a direct result of the \$70 million estimated to be the additional direct travel spending that would result from the additional travel time allowed by a delayed school start date. This direct spending would cause a total impact of over \$100 million on the state's economy when indirect impacts are taken into consideration as well (University of Michigan, 2004).
- \$378 million annually will be added to **Pennsylvania's** economy if schools were required to begin school after Labor Day. This estimate is based on the \$164 million in direct dollars that would be spent by families traveling during the additional week prior to Labor Day. In 2006, the state's economy will lose \$75.6 million for every weekday that school starts before Labor Day. \$17.7 million in state tax revenue is lost to the Commonwealth annually as a result of school starting before Labor Day (TrippUmbach, 2006).
- The economic impact of a post-Labor Day start date in **Minnesota** has been more than three-quarters of a billion dollars. (Tom Day, Hospitality Minnesota) The State Chamber supports the continued new wealth creation that tourism provides to the state and it supports HB 1438 for the following reasons:
  - ✓ It will be a stimulus for the tourism sector to grow by extending its season;
  - ✓ The growth in the tourism sector will increase general fund revenue;
  - ✓ It will provide added financial support for education and other general fund needs.

The North Dakota Chamber supports legislation that enhances business and encourages you to give this bill a "DO PASS" recommendation.

**The following chambers are members of a coalition that support our policy statements:**

Beulah  
Bismarck-Mandan  
Bottineau  
Cando  
Crosby  
Devils Lake  
Dickinson  
Fargo  
Grand Forks  
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
Hettinger  
Jamestown  
Langdon  
Minot  
Wahpeton  
Watford City  
West Fargo  
Williston

Total Businesses Represented= 7429

**The Business Coalition**

ND Automobile and Implement Dealers Association  
Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce  
Hospitality Association  
ND Petroleum Council  
ND Retail and Petroleum Marketers Association

Submitted  
HB 1458  
22 Jan 07



## **North Dakota Nature & Rural Tourism Association**

4777 HWY 41 NORTH \* VELVA ND 58790\*701-626-2226  
BLACKBUTTEADVENTURES@SRT.COM \* WWW.NDNATURE.ORG

January 19, 2007

Chairman Kelsch and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Maria Effertz Hanson and I am the current President of the North Dakota Nature and Rural Tourism Association. I also operate, with my family, a rural tourism business called Black Butte Adventures where we attract visitors for a rural experience through hiking, biking and camping.

The North Dakota Nature and Rural Tourism Association write this testimony in support of starting the school year following the Labor Day Holiday.

Many of our members are sole owners of small, rural tourism businesses. They have created a business that helps sustain them on farms and ranches. Their tourism business is part of their total agriculture operation and helps create diverse economic opportunity the small towns across North Dakota.

These small, rural based businesses offer seasonal employment in many areas of our state that does not have flourishing economic activities. These jobs are important to rural North Dakota.

The NDNRTA supports starting school after Labor Day to extend the opportunity to sustain and grow small businesses in rural North Dakota. Starting school later not only adds much needed days to the tourism business, it will add revenue to the general fund and increase local tax dollars.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 701-626-2226.

Submitted  
HB 1438  
22 Jan



January 22, 2007 *Convention & Visitors Bureau*

Ms. Chairman and Members of the House Education Committee, my name is Terri Thiel and I am the Executive Director of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau supports HB 1438.**

We are in favor of HB 1438 because it would add additional seasonal dates to many of the attractions in our state by providing a few more days on the calendar for families that are juggling a busy summer season. Many family vacations are centered not only with parents and their children, individual parents and their children, but also additional vacation time spent with grandparents and their grandchildren. A national trend of multi-family house holds has resulted in families struggling to accommodate a variety of family member vacations. This legislation would provide an extended summer season for such parental situations.

Our visitor's center is quite often the first point of contact for travelers who stop off of Interstate 94 when entering Dickinson. Repeatedly we are faced visitors who express frustration because some regional attractions are scaled back in services by the end of August. We explain to them it is because many of the seasonal workers, have left due to the school start dates.

For our own employment at the Convention & Visitors Bureau, when hiring students as our front line greeters, our own staff is faced with additional duties when the student leaves our employment early because of early school start dates. Consequently, we tend to look for other types of applicants that can fulfill the season until after Labor Day, thus turning away student applicants, who might otherwise be employed full time during our summer season.

The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau supports legislation to extend the school start dates for the elementary and secondary school year, please support **HB 1438**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Thiel", is written over a large, light-colored scribble or watermark.

Terri Thiel  
Executive Director

*Submitted*  
*HB 1438*  
*22 Jan 07*

January 22, 2007

Ms. Chairman and Members of the House Education Committee, my name is Teri Onsgard, I am the Director of Sales for the Fargo Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau. I am also the President of the Destination Marketing Association of North Dakota.

We support HB 1438

Our members agree that summer brings the majority of tourists to their destination. We know that visitor spending has a significant economic impact on our destinations through research and results. Delaying the school start after Labor Day would lengthen the tourism industry's peak season and give our destinations a level playing ground in which to compete with surrounding States. Our Association's members are leaders in Destination Marketing in North Dakota and as the second-largest industry in the state; tourism generates significant dollars for the General Fund and increases local tax dollars.

**DMAND** supports starting school after Labor Day.

- **Pro-Economy** contributing additional funds to the general fund and local tax base.
- **Pro-Education** education directly benefits from the tourism industry's economic impact by receiving dollars contributed to the general fund.
- **Pro-Family** Labor Day weekend are one last opportunity for families to vacation or spend quality time together which contribute to quality of life that all of us in North Dakota brag about. Many competing states recognize this benefit and take advantage of the additional dollars.
- **Pro-Rural North Dakota** It would provide farm families the support they need to utilize their children for harvest. We also see a benefit for rural school districts that would have the opportunity to pool resources with a uniform school start date.

Sincerely,

Teri Onsgard  
President



*Submitted*  
*HP 1438*  
*22 Jan 07*

Testimony of Julie Rygg  
Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitor Bureau Executive Director  
House Bill: 1438  
January 22, 2007

Madam Chair and Members of the House Education Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitors Bureau (GGF CVB) as a request to support HB 1438, which allows a post-Labor Day school start.

A post-Labor Day school start will benefit North Dakota's economy, tourism industry and families. Because of the warmer temperatures in July and August, North Dakota sees a majority of visitors during these months both from in and out of state. This is an especially popular time for outdoor activities. A day in May or June is not equal to the later summer, and this is shown in tax collections as well as visitor attendance numbers. Delaying the school start days will actually lengthen the peak travel season for the state.

Since education receives dollars contributed to the General Fund by tourism and therefore benefits from the economic impact, it will only help to make the busiest travel season as long as possible.

The tourism, business and agriculture industries rely heavily on students for seasonal work. Delaying the school start days actually allows more earned wages for students while helping these industries to be fully staffed during our busiest time.

A post-labor day school start can and will impact not only the various industries in our state but also North Dakota families. With the passing of this legislation our in-state residents will enjoy our numerous outdoor recreational opportunities, exciting attractions and beautiful scenery during family trips through the end of the summer.

Again, I urge you to support a post-Labor Day school start. This is a wonderful opportunity for North Dakota's economy, tourism industry and families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Julie Rygg

Submitted  
HB 1438  
22 Jan 07



**WOODLAND**  
R E S O R T

1012 Woodland Dr. • Devils Lake, ND 58301

Phone (701) 662-5996

Testimony of Kyle Blanchfield  
Woodland Resort, Devils Lake, ND  
House Bill 1438  
January 22, 2007

Madam Chairman and Members of the House Education Committee, My name is Kyle Blanchfield. I own and operate Woodland Resort, a full service resort on the shores of Devils Lake, ND. I am here today to ask the committee to support a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1438.

The debate has been around for years concerning school opening dates and the affects it has on families and tourism. You have the ability to steer our state to a new direction that will assist the tourism industry and help families enjoy one of the best seasons we have

As a father of 2 school age sons, and an owner of a business in the tourism industry, I bring a unique perspective to the debate. Our resort has faced the challenges of late August for 19 years. There is no doubt that our school opening date before Labor Day negatively affects our ability to attract guests in late summer. These are some of our most difficult dates to market of the year, even at a time the fishing can be good and the weather is nice. We see the following negative affects of pre Labor Day school opening:

- Lost lodging reservations.
- Lost camping reservations.
- Loss of boating activity and fuel sales.
- Loss of valuable staff.
- Loss of general sales across the board.

My own kids have a difficult time going back to school in the "summer". Our local elementary schools don't have air conditioning and you can bet on hot weather in late August. Fact is, I want the later opening for my own family as much as I want it for our resort. A recent survey shows people by a large majority support a post Labor Day opening. If you don't support this for the benefits of the second largest industry in the state please consider the families and the valuable time that can be gained or lost by your decision.

Studies show that school schedules are workable and can accommodate this change. Other states show positive results from a post Labor Day opening.

Your constituents want this. Tourism needs this. A post Labor Day school opening is good for families and business in North Dakota. Please support this win-win piece of legislation.

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
HB1438

Bev Nielson, North Dakota School Boards Association

A coalition of tourism industry businesses (Tourism Alliance Partnership or TAP) is again making an effort to have a state - mandated, after Labor Day start date for K-12 public schools. While this bill is being heard in the Education Committee, it is not about the education of students.

While proponents would like the public to think this effort is about families, it is clearly a move to keep inexpensive high school age labor for another week or two and boost their own profits. The later start date would do nothing to improve student achievement and would actually provide less time for students to prepare for the high-stakes state tests given in the fall.

According to TAP, a later school start would mean millions to the state. However, as Melvin Schramm of Carrington pointed out in his *Fargo Forum* letter to the editor: "Let's analyze that - if North Dakota people stop vacationing when school starts and don't spend millions on tourism, then that money must still be in North Dakota. I don't think they are burying this money but are spending in other ways in North Dakota." The tourism industry don't just want the money spent, they want it spent at their personal businesses. TAP Chairman Bill Shalhoob, a Bismarck hotel and restaurant owner said, "The Friday before Labor Day, my hotel sees a 40% drop in traffic." Clearly this initiative is about personal business profits. Money not spent at those business will most likely be spent at other North Dakota businesses, with no loss to the state sales tax revenue.

Only eleven states have taken the calendar out of the hands of local school boards and from what I understand, only 3 of those require after Labor Day starts. Of our neighboring states, only Minnesota requires an after Labor Day start. According to Kirk Schneidawind of the Minnesota School Boards Association, "We lost the battle two years ago, late at night, in an Ag/Economic Development Committee, of all places, when an amendment was slipped in without any education organizations in the room." Minnesota is not a good comparison to North Dakota for several reasons: 1) they have historically gone back and forth on the issue, 2) the state does not mandate the number of school days, and 3) they give their state exams in the spring so fall review and

preparation is not an issue. Montana does **not** mandate a start date and South Dakota voters **soundly defeated** it at the polls in November.

There are several reasons local school boards object to this usurpation of their authority:

- Schools could lose up to two weeks of review time in preparation for Fall state exams. Cole Carley, president of the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau said, "A day in August is worth three days in June." Interestingly, the same is true for students' test preparation.
- Many students depend on the Colleges for dual credit classes and the Colleges start the third week of August (will the legislature mandate Colleges start after Labor Day?).
- Schools are required to have calendars of at least 180 days and many have more to allow for necessary professional development time and inclement weather make-up days;
- The P-16 Task Force has recommended several days be added to the calendar;
- Late starts mean fewer breaks during the year or extending the school year into June (in some years it could be the middle of June);
- Many teachers need to obtain continuing education hours during the summer and College summer school starts anywhere from mid-May to June 12;
- K-12 summer school would potentially run into late July;
- College students return to school around the 20<sup>th</sup> of August so their families will have completed their vacations by then, and;
- The athletic schedules will still begin in August so many students will complete their summer employment and traveling then anyway and this disconnect will complicate contractual arrangements with teacher/coaches.

When parents or the public are asked if they think school should start after Labor Day, they may say, "sure." However, when asked if they want a decent break at Christmas, they say, "of course." Would you like a Spring break, "well, naturally." When do think the school year should end? "Before Memorial Day would be nice."

Neither the general public nor tourism industry is held accountable to provide students the required number of school days and increase annual yearly progress of students toward a prescribed level of proficiency. It is locally elected school boards that are accountable and where accountability lies, there too should be the authority.

The *Bismarck Tribune* editorial on November 26, 2006, had it right when saying, "School boards have some latitude, but they operate under enough constraints and mandates as it is that they don't need one more, a statute directing the first possible starting point for a school year."

School boards should retain the authority to set school calendars that meet the needs of students, staff, and parents of their community. The local school boards of North Dakota are asking legislators to consider carefully before putting private business profits ahead of the concerns of those entrusted with meeting the educational needs of students.

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07  
2-1

## House Education Committee HB 1438

Dr. M. Douglas Johnson, Executive Director  
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders

Chairwoman Kelsch and members of the House Education Committee, for the record my name is Doug Johnson and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders (NDCEL) which represents North Dakota's school leaders. I am here to testify in opposition to **HB 1438**.

At the NDCEL's 2006 Representative Assembly, the follow position statement was passed:

The NDCEL supports local school boards maintaining the authority to establish the school calendar, school year, and school day and an increase in the state appropriation for foundation aid that will allow funding of at least 70% to provide for a minimum school term of 185 days. The school calendar must include a minimum of 175 days for instruction, 3 days for holidays, 2 days for parent-teacher conferences, and 5 days for professional development activities. If there is a mandated after Labor Day school start the requirement must also be imposed on all educational institutions including higher education.

With this resolution in mind, the NDCEL recognizes that school boards have significant constraints and often very little latitude in the development of their school calendars. School calendars are driven by mandated state testing, parent-teacher conferences, coordination of dual credit courses with college campus calendars, professional development requirements, summer school starting and finish, and yes, even student activities. School boards and administrators put considerable time in the development of a school calendar that best meets the most important reason we have schools, <sup>many</sup> all aspects of the educational needs of their student. They also have to take into the account the needs of the families of their students and the needs of their school district's community, although these are secondary and tertiary considerations when putting developing a school calendar. It is for these reasons the NDCEL supports local school boards maintaining the authority to establish the school calendar.

Those in favor of **HB 1438** would like you to believe that there are many states that have successfully mandated after Labor Day school start and it has been a benefit to the schools and the business community. Let me provide you with some data with regard. According to a report published by the Education Commission of the States dated July, 2004:

- 44 States allow the local education agency (the school district) to set the school start date.
- Only 6 states have statutes setting the starting date.
- Only 1 state Virginia requires an after Labor Day start.
- Others States:
  - Iowa – September 1<sup>st</sup> or later
  - Minnesota – September 1<sup>st</sup> or later
  - North Carolina- Not before August 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Texas – Not before week in which August 21<sup>st</sup> falls
  - West Virginia – August 28<sup>th</sup> or later

In addition, this past November residents of South Dakota defeated an initiated measure to which would require after Labor Day school start for South Dakota schools. It is apparent that the residents of South Dakota, a state which has a significant interest in the success of its tourism business, recognize the importance of maintaining their school districts autonomy in planning a school calendars to meet the educational needs of their students and communities.

Finally, if the House Education Committee must give this bill a do pass, I ask that it be amended to include that the requirement for an after Labor Day start also be imposed on all state educational institutions including higher education. This would be critical in facilitating the coordination of dual credit courses offered by our high schools which are tied directly to the start of our state colleges and universities.

Chairwoman Kelsch and members of the House Education Committee, the NDCEL is opposition to **HB 1438** it encourages your committee to give this bill a Do Not Pass. This concludes my testimony on **HB 1438**. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions that you have in regard to my testimony.

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07

## TESTIMONY ON HB 1438

Madame Chairperson and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Wilfred Volesky and I am the Superintendent of the Mandan School District. I am here today to oppose HB 1438.

First, the start of the school year is an educational decision that should be made by the school board of the local district. Educational officials including the patrons of each school district in the state are in the best position to know the starting date that is in the best interest of the students in the district. Keep educational decisions in the hands of the local people that need to make the decision.

For a number of years students in North Dakota have had the opportunity to take dual credit courses. This has been a very positive issue which has enabled students to enter post secondary institutions with a number of semester hours of college credit. For students in many school districts the only way that they can earn these courses is through Interactive Television where the instructor from a University teaches the course. Students can also obtain college credit by attending classes on the campus of a University like BSC which is what twenty eight Mandan High School students are currently doing. In both cases the credit that students earn is dependent upon a college instructor teaching the course. However, this bill does place any requirement on the starting date for post secondary institutions. If dual credit is to continue to be a viable option for students then the starting date for K-12 schools and post secondary institutions must be similar. So if you feel it is in the best interest to start school after Labor Day you must place that same requirement on post secondary institutions.

Many students and their families will not have the opportunity to go on vacation during these additional days that would be gained by starting school after Labor Day. Many Junior and Senior High students are already participating in extra-curricular activities that begin around the second week in August. Now I realize that activities should not drive a school calendar or determine when the first day of school begins. But in North Dakota

activities such as football cannot begin any later then they currently do now due to weather conditions. We don't have domes especially in western North Dakota that would allow us to play those games indoors. So many students and families are committed to school activities and would not be able to leave to go on vacation.

Attached to my testimony is a calendar that shows what a calendar in the Mandan School District would look like if we started school after Labor Day. As you can see many of the traditional holiday breaks have been eliminated. Eliminating some breaks is certainly manageable. But we need to understand we are talking about students that are 6 to 18 years of age who need to get rejuvenated through the current breaks that schools have traditionally taken off.

If you look at the calendar you will see that graduation has been set for June 1. Another tradition that you are eliminating is graduation on Memorial Day weekend. Many schools use this time because it gives families, in state and out of state, an additional day of travel in order to come for graduation. The after Labor Day start eliminates the opportunity to have graduation on Memorial Day.

Personally I see HB 1438 as serving the needs of one industry in North Dakota. It does nothing for enhancing educational opportunities for students and assisting in the academic growth of students in North Dakota. The people that know what is in the best educational interest of students in North Dakota are the people in each local school district. If starting school after Labor Day is in the best interest of students in some school districts in North Dakota, the opportunity is there for them today to start school after Labor Day. But forcing school districts is not in the best educational interest of North Dakota students.

I ask that you carefully consider all of the ramifications of HB 1438 and give it a Do Not Pass Recommendation. Thank you.

# 2007-2008 MANDAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PLAN 2

### August 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 WS*	

### September 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### October 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 NDEA	19 NDEA	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### November 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 #	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### December 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Aug. 30 Teacher Inservice

Aug. 31 Teacher Workshop **WS\***

Sept. 3 Labor Day

Sept. 4 First Day of School

Oct. 18-19 NDEA Convention

Nov. 2 **Last Day 1st Qtr 44 days #**

Nov. 9 Parent-Teacher Conf

Nov. 12 Veteran's Day

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Friday

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 Christmas Break

Jan. 18 **Last Day 2nd Qtr 46 days #**

Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Day  
Storm Make-Up **SM**

Jan. 22 Teacher Inservice

Feb. 15 Parent-Teacher Conf

Feb. 18 President's Day

Mar. 21 Good Friday

Mar. 24 Easter Monday  
Storm Make-Up **SM**

Mar. 28 **Last Day 3rd Qt 46 days #**

May 26 Memorial Day

May 29 **Last Day of School 4th Qt 44 days**

May 30 Storm Make-Up **SM**

June 1 Graduation

Adopted 6-18-06

Revised 1--07

Days in Session — 180
(Contact Days — 173)
Contract Days — 181 *
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No School
<input type="checkbox"/> First & Last Day of School

### January 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 #	19
20	21 SM	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### February 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

### March 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 SM	25	26	27	28 #	29
30	31					

### April 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 SM	31

Graduation - June 1

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07

**Beulah School District  
Home of the Miners  
204 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Beulah, North Dakota 58523  
Phone # 873-2237, Fax 873-5273  
Email Al.liebersbach@sendit.nodak.edu**

TO: Chairperson Kelsch and Members of the House Education Committee  
FROM: Mr. Al Liebersbach, Superintendent Beulah School District  
DATE: January 22, 2007  
SUBJECT: Testimony on HB 1438

.....

Chairperson Kelsch and members of the House Education Committee

My name is Al Liebersbach and I am the Superintendent of the Beulah School District.

I come to you today in opposition to HB 1438 which mandates an after Labor Day school start for a number of reasons:

1. I have for discussion presented to my School Board and Faculty the three attached school calendars each with after Labor Day start dates. I have also attached for you the ~~comparison~~ <sup>comparison</sup> notes that I prepared for by school board. Two of the three calendars do manage to finish school before Memorial Day. However you will notice as we walk through these calendars that in order to accomplish this I have had to eliminate almost all traditional school holidays. This creates a very large concern for me as we look at the following things;

- a) During the week of parent teacher's conferences we will be having a 6 day work week.
- b) From January 2 through March 21<sup>st</sup> there are no breaks at all. This simply is not good for students or staff.

2. Even though the school classes will be starting after Labor Day many of our school activities will have started long before that. On all three of the calendars with after Labor Day starts my Activities director informs me that we will have played at least 2 football games, 4 volleyball games and 1 or more cross country events. This involves a large number of our students and staff. Thus summer for these families for all sakes and purposes has already ended and they will be still be limited in the amount of travel they will be able to do after August 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. The fourth calendar that I have attached (Version 3) is a calendar that is being promoted by our Great Western ITV network. You will notice that this calendar has an Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> school start date. The single reason for this start date is that it is more closely aligned with the scheduled followed by all post secondary educational institutions in the state and many of our ITV programs as well as dual credit programs come from the post secondary institutions. If we are to be able to continue to work with post secondary educational institutions we simply can not have an after Labor Day start unless they do also.
4. A few days ago I testified at the Senate Education Committee in favor of SB 2184 relating to adding days to the school calendar. At that time I stated that while I support the concept of adding days to the school calendar I did not see how we could accomplish both adding school days to the calendar and have an after Labor Day start. If we do both of these things will have schools ending the year on June 10<sup>th</sup> or latter. What will this do to the schedule for all the many important educational activities that take place during the summer such as: State FFA Convention, Boys State, Girls State, State Music Camp @ the Peace Gardens, and all the summer school programs that are run by our public high

schools they will not be able to start until after June 10<sup>th</sup> and will have to run until into late July or even worse early to mid August.

For these reasons I and my School Board are opposed to this bill.

Thank you and are there any questions.

**Beulah School District  
Home of the Miners  
204 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Beulah, North Dakota 58523  
Phone # 873-2261, Fax 873-5273  
Email Al.liebersbach@sendit.nodak.edu**

TO: Chairperson Kelsch and Members of the House Education Committee  
FROM: Mr. Al Liebersbach, Superintendent Beulah School District  
DATE: January 22, 2007  
SUBJECT: Testimony on HB 1438

.....

To help with your evaluation of the three attached calendars I have prepared a short comparison summary.

Version 4 Calendar facts:

1. This calendar and the next two are after Labor Day starts and are really hard to compare to the above calendars. Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> instead of Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, before Labor Day start.
  - a) Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day of school
  - b) Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 1st Parent Teachers conferences. This will make for a 6 day work week for the staff.
  - c) Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> last day of school in December.
  - d) Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> School restarts for 2008.
  - e) Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> Martin Luther King Day school is in session.
  - f) Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Presidents Day school is in session.
  - g) March 21<sup>st</sup> Good Friday.
  - h) March 24<sup>th</sup> Easter Monday/storm day.
  - i) March 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Teachers conferences day.
  - j) May 21<sup>st</sup> last day of school.
  - k) May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> parent teachers comp days.
  - l) May 25<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day.

Version 5 Calendar facts:

1. This calendar is similar to version 4 with an after Labor Day start. Some of the differences are:
  - a) Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Parent Teachers comp day. (instead of May 22<sup>nd</sup>.)
  - b) March 14<sup>th</sup> spring break day with class B boy's basketball.
  - c) March 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Teachers conferences day
  - d) May 23<sup>rd</sup> last day of school.
  - e) May 25<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day.
  - f) May 26<sup>th</sup> second parent teachers comp day (instead of May 23<sup>rd</sup>).

Version 6 Calendar facts:

1. This calendar is similar to version 4 with an after Labor Day start. Some of the differences are:
  - a) Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Parent Teachers comp day. (instead of May 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  - b) Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> Martin Luther King Day is off/storm day
  - c) Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Presidents Day is off/storm day
  - d) March 14<sup>th</sup> spring break day with class B Boys basketball.
  - e) March 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Teachers conferences day.
  - f) May 27<sup>th</sup> last day of school.
  - g) May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> storm make up days
  - h) June 1 Graduation Day.

Version 3 Calendar facts;

1. This calendar is almost identical to the calendar proposed by the ITV network.
  - a) Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> instead of Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, before Labor Day start.
  - b) Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Parent Teachers conferences. This makes for a six day work week for the staff.
  - c) Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> last day of school in December.
  - d) Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> school restarts for 2008
  - e) Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> School is in session on Marten Luther King Day.
  - f) Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Presidents Day off.
  - g) March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> spring break at Boys Class B state Basketball tourney time.
  - h) March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Teachers conferences.
  - i) March 21<sup>st</sup> Good Friday.
  - j) March 24<sup>th</sup> Easter Monday/storm day.
  - k) May 16<sup>th</sup> last day of school.
  - l) May 18<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day.
  - m) May 19<sup>th</sup> second parent teachers comp day.
  - n) May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> storm make up days.

# 2007 Beulah Public Schools 2008

## After Labor Day Start Version 4

### Aug. 2007 (2 FDP, 3 CPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Sept. 2007 (20 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### Oct. 2007 (21 FPD)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Nov. 2007 (20 FPD)

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			

### Dec. 2007 (15 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Color and Abbreviations code  
 Non School days  
 FPD Holiday No school  
 FP days NSCD

15-Aug ITV Staff meeting/training

28-Aug District In-service Day 1(FPD)

29-Aug District In-service Day 2 (FPD)

30-Aug District in-service Day 3 (instructor Workday) (CPD)

3-Sep Labor Day No School (FP Holiday)

Spet 4 1st Day of School

18-Oct NDEA Days No School

19-Oct NDEA Days No School

2-Nov End of 1st 9 weeks ( 45 FPD) (44 SCD)

6-Nov Parent/Teachers Conferences

8-Nov Parent/Teachers Conferences

12-Nov Veteran's Day No School (FP Holiday)

22-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

23-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

21-Dec Last day of school before Holidays

2-Jan School resumes after Holidays

18-Jan End of 1st semester (46 FPD) (45 SCD) (88 SCD/SEM)

20-Mar End of third 9 weeks (44 FPD) (44 SCD)

21-Mar Good Friday No School (FP Holiday)

24-Mar Easter Monday No School/Storm make up day

25-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

27-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

21-May End of 2nd sem. last day of school (45 FPD) (41 SCD) (85 SCD)

22-May No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

23-May No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

25-May Graduation Day

Instructors contract will include 3 contract days of cafeteria style arranged professional development that are not on this calendar.

CPD Beulah District Contract Paid Day = 181 + 3 cafeteria days  
 FPD Foundation Aid Paid Day = 180

### Jan. 2008 (22 FPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Feb. 2008 (21 FPD)

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

### March 2008 (20 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### April 2008 (22 FPD)

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May 2008 (17 FPD)

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Storm make up days  
 District in-service CPD  
 Parent teachers conf days  
 SCD Student Contact Day = 173

# 2007 Beulah Public Schools 2008

## After Labor Day Start Version 5

### Aug. 2007 (2 FDP, 3 CPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Sept. 2007 (20 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### Oct. 2007 (21 FPD)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Nov. 2007 (20 FPD)

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### Dec. 2007 (15 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

#### Color and Abbreviations code

	Non School days
	FPD Holiday No school
	FP days NSCD

15-Aug ITV Staff meeting/training

28-Aug District In-service Day 1(FPD)

29-Aug District In-service Day 2 (FPD)

30-Aug District in-service Day 3 (instructor Workday) (CPD)

3-Sep Labor Day No School (FP Holiday)

Spet 4 1st Day of School

18-Oct NDEA Days No School

19-Oct NDEA Days No School

2-Nov End of 1st 9 weeks ( 45 FPD) (42 SCD)

6-Nov Parent/Teachers Conferences

8-Nov Parent/Teachers Conferences

9-Nov No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

12-Nov Veteran's Day No School (FP Holiday)

22-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

23-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

21-Dec Last day of school before Holidays

2-Jan School resumes after Holidays

18-Jan End of 1st semester (46 FPD) (44 SCD) (86 SCD/SEM)

14-Mar No School/Spring Break/Storm Day

20-Mar End of third 9 weeks (43 FPD) (43 SCD)

21-Mar Good Friday No School (FP Holiday)

24-Mar Easter Monday No School/Storm make up day

25-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

27-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

23-May End of 2nd sem. last day of school (46FPD) (44 SCD) (87 SCD/SEM)

25-May Graduation Day

26-May No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

Instructors contract will include 3 contract days of cafeteria style arranged professional development that are not on this calendar.

CPD Beulah District Contract Paid Day = 181 + 3 cafeteria days  
 FPD Foundation Aid Paid Day = 180

### Jan. 2008 (22 FPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Feb. 2008 (21 FPD)

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

### March 2008 (19 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### April 2008 (22 FPD)

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May 2008 (18 FPD)

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Storm make up days  
 District in-service CPD  
 Parent teachers conf days  
 SCD Student Contact Day = 173

# 2007 Beulah Public Schools 2008

## After Labor Day Start Version 6

### Aug. 2007 (2 FDP, 3 CPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Sept. 2007 (20 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### Oct. 2007 (21 FPD)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Nov. 2007 (20 FPD)

			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### Dec. 2007 (15 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Color and Abbreviations code

Non School days  
 FPD Holiday No school  
 FP days NSCD

15-Aug ITV Staff meeting/training

28-Aug District In-service Day 1(FPD)

29-Aug District In-service Day 2 (FPD)

30-Aug District in-service Day 3 (Instructor Workday) (CPD)

3-Sep Labor Day No School (FP Holiday)

Spet 4 1st Day of School

18-Oct NDEA Days No School

19-Oct NDEA Days No School

2-Nov End of 1st 9 weeks ( 45 FPD) (42 SCD)

6-Nov Parent/Teachers Conferences

8-Nov Parent/Teachers Conferences

9-Nov No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

12-Nov Veteran's Day No School (FP Holiday)

22-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

23-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

21-Dec Last day of school before Holidays

2-Jan School resumes after Holidays

18-Jan End of 1st semester (46 FPD) (44 SCD) (86 SCD/SEM)

21-Jan Martin Luther King Day/No School/Storm make up day

18-Feb Presidents Day/No School/Storm make up day

14-Mar No School/Spring Break/Storm Day

20-Mar End of third 9 weeks (41 FPD) (41 SCD)

21-Mar Good Friday No School (FP Holiday)

24-Mar Easter Monday No School/Storm make up day

25-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

27-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

26-May Memorial Day No School

28-May End of 2nd sem. last day of school (48FPD) (46 SCD) (87 SCD)

29-May Storm Make up days

30-May No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

1-Jun Graduation Day

Instructors contract will include 3 contract days of cafeteria style arranged professional development that are not on this calendar.

### Jan. 2008 (21 FPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Feb. 2008 (20 FPD)

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

### March 2008 (19 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### April 2008 (22 FPD)

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May 2008 (20 FPD)

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Storm make up days  
 District in-service CPD  
 Parent teachers conf days  
 SCD Student Contact Day = 173

# 2007 Beulah Public Schools 2008

## Common Calendar with GWN Version - 3.0

### Aug. 2007 (9 FDP, 10 CPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Sept. 2007 (20 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### Oct. 2007 (21 FPD)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Nov. 2007 (20 FPD)

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### Dec. 2007 (15 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Color and Abbreviations code  
 Non School days  
 FPD Holiday No school  
 FP days NSCD

15-Aug ITV Staff meeting/training

20-Aug District In-service Day 1 (FPD)

21-Aug District In-service Day 2 (FPD)

22-Aug District in-service Day 3 (instructor Workday) (CPD)

23-Aug 1st Day of School

3-Sep Labor Day No School (FP Holiday)

17-Oct End of 1st 9 weeks ( 42 FPD) (39 SCD)

18-Oct NDEA Days No School

19-Oct NDEA Days No School

23-Oct Parent/Teachers Conferences

25-Oct Parent/Teachers Conferences

12-Nov Veteran's Day No School (FP Holiday)

22-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

23-Nov Thanksgiving Break No school

20-Dec Last day of school before Holidays

21-Dec No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

2-Jan School resumes after Holidays

11-Jan End of 1st semester (51 FPD) (49 SCD) (88 SCD/SEM)

18-Feb Presidents Day No school/storm make up day

12-Mar End of third 9 weeks (42 FPD) (42 SCD)

17-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

18-Mar Parent/Teachers Conferences

21-Mar Good Friday No School (FP Holiday)

24-Mar Easter Monday No School/Storm make up day

16-May End of 2nd sem. last day of school (45 FPD) (43 SCD) (85 SCD)

18-May Graduation Day

19-May No School Parent/Teachers Conferences Comp Day (FPD)

20-May Storm make up day

21-May Storm make up day

CPD  
 FPD

Instructors contract will include 3 contract days of cafeteria style arranged professional development that are not on this calendar.  
 Beulah District Contract Paid Day = 181 + 3 cafeteria days  
 Foundation Aid Paid Day = 180

### Jan. 2008 (22 FPD)

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### Feb. 2008 (20 FPD)

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

### March 2008 (18 FPD)

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### April 2008 (22 FPD)

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### May 2008 (13 FPD)

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Storm make up days  
 District in-service CPD  
 Parent teachers conf days  
 SCD Student Contact Day = 173

Representative RaeAnn Kelsch, Chair  
Education Committee  
House of Representatives

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Johnson and I am superintendent of the Bismarck School District. The Bismarck School Board is opposed to HB 1438, which directs that "the school calendar may begin no earlier than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in September". Our School Board believes that the decision of when the school year should begin and end is best decided locally, by the local School Board.

At least every two years, we survey parents about district calendar preferences. Consistently, parents have expressed a preference for starting school in August and ending before Memorial Day weekend, or at least by the end of May. They give many of the same reasons that have been stated by others including that fall sports start in August, that kids are anxious to get back to school in August, and that they want to finish by the end of May. Please read the e-mail, attached to this testimony, from a district parent. If school district patrons express a preference for a later start date, the Board can respond appropriately. School Board members have some concern that frustration over an unpopular school calendar may be directed at the district, rather than the Legislature.

Days are being added to school calendars and a mandated September start forces hard choices such as extending the school year into June or limiting vacations for students and teachers. The Legislature added two staff development days last year and is contemplating adding three additional student contact days. We support those additional days for staff development and for increased time with students. Our School Board has added four days to our calendar in the last five years. Many school districts have fewer days than our district, but this is another reason school calendars should be a local decision.

In response to the concern of the tourism industry of school starting too early, the Bismarck School District is considering a later start date than is traditional in Bismarck. A traditional Bismarck school start date would be August 23. The calendar we are considering for next year would start the week before Labor Day, either on August 27 or August 29. We would also be breaking tradition on the other end of the calendar by holding school beyond Memorial Day weekend, our traditional weekend for high school graduation.

To summarize, the Bismarck School Board believes that the day school starts should be a local decision and so opposes HB 1438.

Paul Johnson

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2007 8:05 PM  
To: Paul Johnson  
Subject: First Day of School

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am aware that the legislature is attempting to mandate an "after Labor Day school start date". I want you to know that as a parent of three children in the Bismarck system that I think that this change is not in the best interest of our children. I also attended school in Bismarck from kindergarten on so I am familiar with our system and am able to speak from my own experiences. Kids are very ready to go back to school the end of August. They start to get restless as their summer activities are complete and they are for the most part ready to get back into a school schedule. I also think that having a short week as they adjust to the school schedule is beneficial to help ease them back into the "school schedule".

On the flip side of the school year, the kids are so ready to be done with school the end of May. They are restless and usually the weather has taken a turn for the better. They are anxious to be outside. Having to go back to school after Memorial Day is difficult and I question how productive it would be?

An article in the Bismarck Tribune today (Jan 10, 2007) indicated that some people are discussing shortening the breaks so that we can be done with school by the end of May if we started after Labor Day. As a parent, the breaks throughout the school year allow time for family vacations and a much needed break for both children and parents.

The people pushing for this legislation don't have our children in mind-it's about tourism and money. The welfare of our children shouldn't be decided by those people looking at the "bottom line".

I am also a nurse practitioner in Bismarck and feel that our children's health is important. Keeping the school year as it is, the best option for our children. They start school when the summer is coming to a close and they are ready to go. The school year is complete as the weather starts to get nicer and they are ready to be done. This schedule also provides enough breaks throughout the year to keep them going. Easing into the school year with a break in the first couple of weeks is also in their best interest. The children are able to catch up on some much needed sleep as they adjust to the school schedule. Keep in mind those little kindergarten kids that have to adjust to school for the very first time. This school schedule is more "kid-friendly" and that's what should determine the school calendar.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I look forward to your response.

A concerned parent,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**HB 1438 Oppose  
Maurice Hardy  
NDSBA – Beach School Board**

1. Starts later – ends later
  - a. Summer school would start later and end later – will there need to be a mandated end date also.
  - b. It is likely summer school would end in late July – with P-16 recommendation of 10 extra days – July 15.
2. Higher Education
  - a. Dual Credit
  - b. Higher Education institutions begin in the second and third week of August.
  - c. Would dual credit students be allowed to start with colleges? Would require extended contract costs for supervising staff.
3. No Child Left Behind
  - a. Lots of federal requirements and dollars attached.
  - b. North Dakota had to have their testing done by November 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.
  - c. Post Labor Day start day would have taken 9 days from Beach students' review and preparation time for these high stakes tests
4. Teachers – Professional Development
  - a. Teachers are required to continue their education
  - b. Universities are a prime source of this continued education
  - c. End date for local school and start date for summer session will overlap
5. Activities
  - a. Football August 8
  - b. Volleyball August 13
  - c. Over 60% of Beach's students were involved 7-12
  - d. Post Labor Day start this year would have been 2 football games and 3 volleyball matches – Staff to prepare facilities, supervise, and clean.
  - e. Added scheduling and extra expense.
6. Disposable Income
  - a. There is only so much disposable income for tourism
  - b. Moving the start date is not going to put more money in paychecks to take vacations
  - c. In my nearly 8 years on the board in Beach, I have not had anyone tell me they did not take a vacation because school started.
7. Control or lack of it - K-12 schools and boards have no control over:
  - a. Fall testing
  - b. Higher Education Start Dates
  - c. Activity start dates
    - i. Weather plays a part in end dates (football)
8. North Dakota School Boards Association Opposes
  - a. 100 percent of schools are members
  - b. 1120 board members are represented
  - c. Resolution passed in October 2006 to oppose mandated start dates

HB 1438  
22 Jan 07

# North Dakota Farmers Union

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FAX: 701-252-6584

E-MAIL: [ndfu@ndfu.org](mailto:ndfu@ndfu.org)



HB 1438  
Education Committee

Chairman Kelsch and Members of the Education committee,

My name is Kayla Pulvermacher; I am here representing the members of North Dakota Farmers Union. I am here to testify in opposition of HB 1438.

North Dakota Farmers Union realizes that many public schools are the focal point of their communities. We believe that local school boards should determine when to start public school according to the best interest of the students' education.

North Dakota Farmers Union policy speaks clearly towards local control. This is a situation where many factors can go into the decision, and is best left up to the individual communities to make the final call.

We strongly urge a do not pass on the HB 1438.

Thank you Chairman Kelsch and members of the committee. I will answer any questions at this time.