

Pine River Area Schools

WEB RELEASE

May 1, 2020

Board to Consider Early Start Calendar for 2020-2021 School Year

While we have considered an early start in the past couple of years only to change our minds and stick with a traditional, post-Labor Day school year start, the Pine River Area Schools' Board of Education is currently examining three different models to include starting school on August 19 or August 26 for the 2020-2021 School Year.

"Starting earlier in 2020 would help shorten the gap between missed classroom instructional time for our teachers and our students," Pine River Superintendent of Schools, Matt Lukshaitis stated. "Waiting until post-Labor Day, Tuesday, September 8, would mean five months and three weeks between instructional time opportunities. No one can predict how and when the social distancing laws will be lifted or how it may impact schools, but the district has to move forward in planning and hoping for the best and the best thing for our students would be to come back to school and be part of a new school year. We don't want them to wait a minute longer than is necessary."

The calendars under consideration would welcome students back to school early and help us finish our first semester at Christmas Break to mirror colleges and allow exams to be completed prior to vacation. "If we wait until September 8 to come back to school (we will be playing our fourth varsity football game on that Friday night and with this pandemic) that seems like a sad missing out. We are talking about returning to some form of *normal* as quickly as possible, if it is even fair to use that term."

Pine River Area Schools' Board of Education will meet next on Monday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. A way to comment ahead of time is to write an email and address it to the board via dawn.sizeland@pineriver.org or by joining the board meeting electronically. Directions to join electronically will be posted about 72 hours prior to the Board meeting.