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District seeks community input on 2017-18 calendar

Survey will be open through March 4

Community High School District 99 has opened an online survey to gauge community input on a new type of calendar for the 2017-18 school year, which would align the end the first semester with winter

break. The survey – available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/JVVLVXF – will be open through March 4.

Everyone in the District 99 community is invited to respond.

Traditionally, District 99 has followed a school calendar that ends its first semester in January, after a winter break.

Many high schools in the area have adopted a calendar that ends the first semester before the winter break, and District 99 is considering adopting this type of calendar for the 2017-18 school year.

“Shifting our calendar to end the first semester before winter break is appealing to many people, primarily because it would allow students to finish a semester of work and enjoy a true break during the winter holiday season,” District 99 Superintendent Mark McDonald said. “This will fundamentally change our calendar, though, in that we will either need to start the school year earlier in August and/or delay the start of our winter

break to later in December.”

At its Feb. 1 meeting, the District 99 Board of Education approved the 2016-17 school calendar, which follows a traditional schedule.

However, the majority of the board members expressed a desire to adopt a calendar for 2017-18 that would have the first semester end before the winter break, while also adhering as closely as possible to the school calendars of associated elementary and middle school districts.

District 99 said it has worked in the past to collaborate with the elementary and middle school districts to coordinate calendars, allowing students in the community to follow similar school schedules.

District 99 receives students from District 58 (Downers Grove), District 60 (Maercker), District 61 (Darien), District 66 (Center-Cass) and District 68 (Woodridge), as well as many private schools.

The Board of Education is expected to discuss the 2017-18 calendar at its May 2 meeting.

For additional background about the District 99 calendar study, including results from previous surveys and sample calendars, visit www.csd99.org/community/documents/020116-CalendarReport.pdf.