



The School District of Philadelphia

Board of Education Action Item Questions and Responses February 27, 2025

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Action Item Questions	Submitted by:	Response
12). Capital Award for Elevator Modernization at Thomas G. Morton School (\$627,000) 1. How do expenditures such as this elevator modernization (as well as the other capital improvements) roll up into the District's Facilities Plan process (data warehouse)?	Board Member Cubbage and Board Member Lam	1. Elevator modernizations improve ADA accessibility for school communities, directly supporting the District's Facilities Plan to increase the number of ADA-compliant facilities. This work helps address and reduce the deficiencies identified in previous Facilities Condition Assessments and the ongoing ADA Accessibility Assessment, ensuring equitable access for all students, staff, and visitors. By modernizing elevators, the District improves mobility, safety, and compliance with federal accessibility standards, fostering an inclusive learning environment. These upgrades are a critical step toward reducing barriers and enhancing facility equity district-wide.

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<p>21). Adoption of Academic Calendars for SY 2025-2026 and 2026-2027</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why does school start so early and why is winter break so long in the 2026-2027 school calendar? 2. How does the District make a decision on which holidays are celebrated and which aren't? What holidays are mandated by law, CBAs, etc.? 	<p>Board Member Lam</p> <p>Board Member Wilkerson</p> <p>Board Member Jones</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The District is required by PDE to observe Christmas Day and New Years Day as days off within the academic calendar. We have also historically observed Christmas Eve as an additional religious holiday off for students and staff. In SY 2026-27, Christmas Eve falls on a Thursday and New Years Day falls on the following Friday, meaning that all week days in between those holidays are observed as days off, as well. Finally, stakeholders continually express that long holiday breaks and frequent days off are a top priority and key to preventing burnout and providing much needed rest throughout the year. In response to that input, we also included Wednesday, December 23rd as the first day of Winter Recess for the 2026-27 school year. This provides a total of 8 school days off for Winter Recess in that year, which is a reduction of 2 school days from the current school year's (2024-25) Winter Recess. 2. Beyond state mandated holidays, the District conducts extensive stakeholder engagement to determine which non-State mandated holidays are observed as days off on the academic calendar. During the calendar
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		<p>development process for SY 2025-26 and 2026-27, the Division of Academic Services conducted a District-wide survey that gathered nearly 16,500 responses and held 20 virtual and in-person feedback sessions with over 270 participants. Stakeholders have continually expressed their preferences for calendars that prioritize as many cultural and religious holidays as possible.</p> <p>The cultural and religious holidays included in the SY 2025-26 and 2026-27 calendars remain consistent with holidays observed as days off in several years prior. This year, stakeholders expressed a specific preference of restoring Indigenous Peoples Day and Veteran's Day as days off, after they were recently used as in-school days of learning for the past one to two years.</p>
<p>23). Waiver of Consideration by Policy Committee and First Reading; Adoption of Board Finance Policies</p> <p>1. Why do Policies 625 & 626 delegate responsibility to someone other than "the Superintendent or their designee"</p>	Board Member Lam	<p>1. Section 12-208 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter states that the Superintendent is both the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board. In his capacity as Treasurer, the Superintendent would be the Board's designee for these two policies.</p>



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