

BCSSA 2002 Summer Conference

“New Realities, New Thinking”

Nancy V. Wells,
Superintendent of Schools,
Mission School District

Changing School Calendars

*Designing organizational coherence, with activities
corresponding to purpose*

“The New Reality”

Learning promises to keep - accountability commitments

Enabling legislation, rules that work

A climate of change, a bucketful of possibilities

Financial challenges to beat

PRESERVE core values and purpose

CHANGE cultural & operational practices

In “From Good to Great” in reference to the success of Walt Disney

“The New Thinking”

Maintain a student achievement focus, our primary purpose

Recognize and harness the power of such a major structural change to positively impact learning for ALL kids

Consider potential financial and holiday gains as part of the achievement opportunities, not as a separate driver for change

Think Club Ed not Club Med

Accessing Smart Information Legislation

“A further amendment to the School Calendar Regulation came into force on June 28, 2002. Changes to sections 4 and 6 make it clear the Board’s authority to vary a local calendar at any time during a school year provided the consultation process is followed”. (Rick Davis)

Contact at the Ministry

- Dave Duerksen, Manager, Governance & Legislation Unit

You are not alone - the help is out there if you ask

Accessing Smart Information Research

UBC support - world class research at our fingertips,
Dr. Carolyn M. Shields – email at carolyn.shields@ubc.ca

Shields website

- relevant articles & updates at www.educationalresearch.com

The book “*Year-Round Schooling: Promises and Pitfalls*”

- from Barns & Noble at www.bn.com or Scarecrow Press @

1 800 462 6420

Shields Research Highlights

- based on a decade of research in the USA, New Zealand & Canada

Balancing the school calendar for a more even rhythm for learning has the potential to:

- improve student learning by less summer learning loss
- enhance educational equity
- achieve possible fiscal savings

Shields Research Highlights

How can calendar changes impact learning, equity & finances?

- balancing is associated with less burn out, better attendance and increased motivation and learning levels
- intersession opportunities for our most vulnerable learners helps them stay “caught up” to advantaged peers
- introducing overlapping “tracks” of students in school and on vacation at any one time may permit increased building capacity and a decrease of per pupil expenditure

“One Way” - The Mission approach

Guiding principles:

1. instructional impact
2. wellness impact
3. financial impact

- board approval in principle and over to staff
- broken fronts – school and district
- school community involvement – really listen
- connect to the “Schools of Choice” opportunity, recognizing the legislative connectivity

The Question Today – Smarter Together

Let's not lose this opportunity, let's figure out together what the best way is to use this legislation.

Let's hurry up smartly.

How can we network to design calendar innovations that do improve achievement, equity and finances in our public schools?

Smarter Together

When things change slowly and events are not networked, it takes really big ideas to shift the course of history.

In an accelerated, highly networked system, events affect each other far more profoundly. Small shifts can go a long way.

From “**Digital Aboriginal**, Tarlow & Tarlow. 2002