

**Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the
May 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**

Only Board items with public comments are listed.

Items Not on the Agenda

Name	Comment
Lauren Boeck	I would like to request a reconsideration of the previously approved 25-26 calendar to mirror the proposed 26-27 calendar that has been recommended by staff through the work of the calendar committee.

Action: 2026-2027 Student Instructional Calendar

Name	Comment
Anonymous	Please approve a Thursday start day!
Julie Zingale	Prefer 2023-24 calendar with start day a Thursday/ week off for Thanksgiving (would very much prefer this calendar starting immediately for the 2024-2025 school year too)
Meredith McMahon	Starting the school year on a Thursday instead of the typical Monday provided a gentler transition for students and teachers returning from a lengthy summer break. With about 10 weeks off, the abrupt return to full-time schooling can be jarring, leading to increased stress. However, beginning on a Thursday allowed for a smoother re-entry, with two days of school followed by the weekend, granting a gradual adjustment period. Moreover, structuring the academic year this way ensured students attended school for the same number of days, maintaining continuity while easing the shock of returning to the classroom. The decision to include a week off in November also gained community support. Recognizing the importance of listening to parents, staff, and students, it's crucial for the board members to heed their preferences. Despite the calendar committee's efforts and overwhelming consensus for the Thursday start, the board chose differently. Now, the community appeals to the board to fulfill their role as representatives. This decision isn't just logistical; it prioritizes mental well-being. Starting on a Thursday and having a week off in November can significantly contribute to overall mental health, offering a crucial

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	respite after months of continuous schooling.
Christian Prietto	For the 26-27 school year, I ask you to consider my input as a parent of middle schoolers at Thurston and an elementary student at El Morro. My children have done well mentally, emotionally and physically starting school on a Thursday to adjust. We do our part adjusting their sleep schedules leading up to school starting. It's helpful when school does as well. A full week right back into it is difficult for them. Having a week off for Thanksgiving isn't easier for my working schedule, but it does give us the chance to visit friends and family rather than squeezing everything in during winter break, when people get sick and travel is more expensive. Thank you for your consideration of our families.
Sarah Benson	I am a parent and teacher in the district. Please listen to LABUFA, CSEA, all four PTA's, and the Calendar Committee and approve the recommended calendar. These entities represent our teachers, parents, students, and staff. Please make data driven decisions that are in the best interest of the people you represent, not decisions based on personal feelings. I would also ask that you please revote on the 24-25 calendar as you reversed the decision that was already approved. Bouncing back and forth between schedules is challenging for teachers especially. It doesn't make sense to have a week off one year, not have a week off the next year, and then have a week off again. I know it is a challenging position to be in to make these decisions. We appreciate your listening to the parents and staff as you make them.
Katrina rudometkin	I think we need a full week off starting Thursday over the holiday. I have another son in a different school and they would both have the same schedules. Also, it is so important to take time for mental health and give teachers and kiddos some real time to take for themselves. Please return the schedule to being off the full week. Thank you
Amanda A Mercer	Start school on Thursday and have an entire week off for Thanksgiving!

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Jynel Young	<p>1. Starting on a Thursday helped my ease kids back into school after having about 10 weeks off of summer. - less stressful, better for their mental health, helped with the transition to have 2 days of school and then the weekend, also was nice for teachers to adjust to coming back.</p> <p>2. With Starting on a Thursday and giving us a week off, the kids still go to school the same number of days (I think it's 180 days)</p> <p>3. The vast majority (almost everyone) would prefer starting on the Thursday, so that we could have a full week off in Nov. - We voted you all in as board members to listen and be our voice.... so we are kindly and respectfully asking u to be our voice and hear us out</p> <p>4. The board created a calendar committee to get input from parents and staff and vast majority was in favor of starting on Thursday... but u didn't take our recommendation. Please be our voice and consider what we are asking for</p> <p>5. Overall mental health - starting in a Thursday and having the week off (after going to school for almost 3 months straight, is good for everyone's mental health</p>
Momi Bartholomew	Start on Thursday
Ryan Howe	Start the school year on a Thursday
Lauren Boeck	<p>As a parent of three kids in the district (all currently at El Morro), I am in full support of the proposed 26-27 calendar. I believe this proposal takes into account the needs of all stakeholders and represents what is best for kids. Once approved, I would support a reconsideration of the previously approved 25-26 calendar to mirror the 26-27 calendar in order to provide consistency in our school years. Thank you for your service and all you do for the children and families of Laguna Beach. :)</p>
Jennifer Nahas	<p>I am respectfully requesting a school start date on Thursday to give the students and teachers a full week off for Thanksgiving week. There are mental health</p>

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	benefits to easing back into the school year and having a full week of rest in November.
Kortney Lillestrand	<p>Please listen to the parents, teachers, staff, and PTA's when you decide on the 2026-2027 calendar and reopen discussions for the 2025-2026 calendar. We are not asking for "more vacation time off". We are asking that you listen to your community and represent what your community that elected you into office. Please put your personal feelings aside and support the overwhelming number of people standing together. Please have a Wednesday or Thursday start date. This is a better environment for families with younger kids and new families. It's difficult getting your child back on a regular schedule. It's also beneficial to the teachers that I have spoken with who recommend a "soft opening". It eases the kids back into a routine. The children respond better to go full steam ahead on Monday. With a Monday start, the whole week is lost because none of the teachers want to start off the first week with the curriculum. They end up drawing out the getting to know each other activities because the students are so exhausted the first week.</p> <p>Our attendance is down the week of Thanksgiving. Many families have confided in me that they will take the week off regardless if we have school. Students need the mental health break to come back refreshed and eager to learn again. Thanksgiving is the perfect time for our social emotional health. Please align the "non student" days off together across our schools. It's hard for parents with kids at both schools when the do not allign.</p>
Faith Mills	<p>Please have our kids start the school year on a Thursday as we have done previously! Having a two day re-entry after more than 10 weeks off for summer is better for our children's mental health and for our teachers. This eases everyone back into school, setting a strong foundation for a successful year. In addition, the majority of parents would like to maintain an entire week off for Thanksgiving! Please listen to the voices of the parents and assist our children with less stress at the start of the school year.</p>
Anna-Clare Redmond	Approve

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Siri	Please consider that beginning school on a Thursday helps my kids have a smooth transition back into school after having about time off for summer. Having the entire week off during Thanksgiving is extremely helpful both with accommodating work schedules and family time.
Sanene Stetter	Thursday start day for beginning of school year Thanksgiving week off Non student days aligned at the elementary schools with the middle school
Christine Wagner	I would like to request that the board listen and respect the recommendations of the calendar committee who spent many hours gathering data in creating calendars that would best support our students. Their recommendations are also supported by both unions, staff and parents. As an elementary teacher for twenty-nine years, a Thursday start date benefits the younger children in so many ways. The transition from summer schedules to school year schedules is a difficult one and a two day week to start the year helps young children make that adjustment. As a parent of a current LBHS senior and a recent LBHS graduate, the week off at Thanksgiving is beneficial for those students in so many ways. November is a time for college applications, preparing for ACT and SAT exams, continuing a workload of AP classes and sports. That week helps them and their mental health so they can finish the semester strong. I would respectfully ask that you carefully look at the student at all grade levels and see their individual needs. Thank you.
Laura Sewell	I would like the board to strongly consider having the entire week of Thanksgiving off. This time is special time for families and relaxation after a busy fall trimester. It's not just about wanting vacation, it's about quality time with our families. I'm a working parent, and even I get this week off and would love to spend it with my kids. Parents will take their kids out of school anyway, and that creates more stress for everyone, and less quality education for those that do attend. Thank you.
Ashly Frasso	Please have a full week off for Thanksgiving and the

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	same "student Days" across schools
Cathy Adair	<p>We are incredibly frustrated by the Board neglecting to listen to the voices of staff, teachers, families and students about the calendar. I am tired of having a calendar that continues to change considerably from year-to-year. The start date is constantly shifting, Thanksgiving week - off for one year, then gone (!!!), now the splitting of staff development days for primary and secondary, and - once again - shifting the school start date to a Monday.</p> <p>Who is this serving? Every year there's one surprise or another and it should not be this way. Families need a certain level of predictability with the school calendar, and the calendar needs to take into account staff and family feedback, as well as what benefits our students.</p> <p>As working parents, we need our kids off on the same staff development days - and that day has always been that first Monday in January following winter break. The day after Halloween? Give me a break. For 2025-2026, you have them off on Halloween? Why? What working parent is off on Halloween and how does that make sense for teachers or kids? It doesn't.</p> <p>This is our request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start school on either Wednesday or Thursday to ease students back into their routines after summer break. - Have a full week off for Thanksgiving, aligning with the preferences of our community. - Align staff professional development days for both primary and secondary schools. <p>Thank you! Cathy Adair</p>
Annie Bochenek	<p>As a teacher with 15 years of experience and a parent at El Morro Elementary, I'm deeply concerned about recent changes to the school calendar. Eliminating Thanksgiving break disrupts family traditions and adds stress. Starting on Monday instead of Thursday hinders student adjustment. I urge the school board to reconsider, prioritizing community input for future decisions.</p>

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Nicole Strathman	Dear Board, please listen to the parents and PTA groups who have requested that we have three items changed on the upcoming calendars. 1.) A full week of Thanksgiving off. This would be inline with the top 25 largest districts in the state of California which ALL offer the entire week of Thanksgiving as a holiday break. 2.) a common non-student day for all four schools in the district. Like the aforementioned largest districts in the state, they too have common non-student days for elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Parents, such as myself, should not be forced to find care for their children for two separate non-instructional days. And finally 3.) a Thursday start date allows for students to ease into the school year.
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Action: Approval of New Job Description and Position: Program Specialist

Name	Comment
Katrina rudometkin	I think specialists are so important in our school environment right now.
Anna-Clare Redmond	Approve