

From: [Peggy James](#) on behalf of [Peggy James <pjames@hinsdale86.org>](#)
To: [Tammy Prentiss](#)
Cc: [Terri Walker](#)
Subject: Re: Extension of Thanksgiving break
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:01:36 PM

Dear Tammy,

I have to say I am disappointed that this message was shared with both students and the community in advance, before we had a chance to discuss this possible change at the board table. When we spoke about this proposed item over the weekend, you mentioned that we have an "urgent" need. How was the urgent need determined? Was this proposed calendar change discussed with staff in advance? Lesson plans were altered and many tests have been moved up to the Friday before break - leaving students with even more stress and less time.

Why was this shared with students today? By sharing this message with students, you have taken away our ability to weigh the pros / cons of such a last minute change at the board table.

Frankly, I believe we are putting a band-aid on the stress and anxiety our students and staff are facing this semester. We need to have fully vetted plans that have considered all possible issues before rolling them out. There are so many unintended consequences from this last minute plan. When will we address all the causes of this stress? Grading, Finals, COVID among many other things.

My question related to student mental health, Is the district tracking mental health cases and trends compared to previous years?

Some items to consider:

- depression / anxiety
- suicide attempts
- IOP - intensive outpatient practice
- PHP - partial hospital programs
- In patient care

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss further.

Thanks,
Peggy

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 8:57 AM Board President Terri Walker and Superintendent Tammy Prentiss <tprentis@hinsdale86.org> wrote:



Dear District 86 Family,

We have spoken at length over the past 20 months about the strength and resilience of our community. We have expressed our admiration for the perseverance, persistence and dogged determination you have exhibited throughout the pandemic. We have also talked about how we have been inspired by your toughness and tenacity in the face of tremendous adversity.

However, what we said in March 2020 when all of this began remains true to this day. Our top priority has been and will continue to be the physical, mental and emotional health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. That is why we have listened intently over the past few weeks as an increasing number of you have approached us about the struggles you have experienced since the start of the school year. It is why we have sought to learn more about the pressure and anxiety that you have felt as you have tried to assimilate back into a life you have not known for nearly two years. It is also why we have joined a number of our fellow districts in exploring ways to alleviate the stress that is threatening the very health and well-being we have committed ourselves to protect.

With all of this in mind, the administration is recommending and board of education is anticipated to approve the conversion of Monday, Nov. 22, and Tuesday, Nov. 23, to days off for all District 86 students and employees so that everyone has the entire week of Thanksgiving break (Nov. 22-26) to rest, relax and recharge.

While the official vote will not take place until the board meeting on Nov. 18, we wanted to share this news with you today so that you have more time to plan and prepare for the additional days off.

So, what does this mean for the members of our district community?

- Students, you will have no required academic expectations or responsibilities on these days. You will not need to attend classes or engage in asynchronous learning. You will also not receive any new assignments. We encourage you to use this time to engage in self-care, reconnect with friends and family, catch up on missing work, etc. If you are participating in a sport, your coaches will let you know what changes, if any, this decision will have on your games or practice schedules. If you qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, the buildings will provide you with information about how your needs will continue to be met.
- Faculty and staff, these will be paid days off that will not impact your existing balances for vacation, personal time, etc. You will not need to report to work or be expected to engage in any school- or district-related activities. Similar to our students, we encourage you to use this time to take a well-deserved break. Those employees who must be on-site during these days for operational reasons (i.e., buildings and grounds staff and security personnel) will receive floating holidays that can be used at a later time.
- Since the number of instructional days in our schedule (180) already exceeds what is required by the state (176), these two days will not need to be made up at the end of the school year.

It is our sincere hope that these two days will provide a brief respite from the pressures and demands that we and districts from across the country have experienced the past few

months. We also understand and appreciate that more can and must be done to alleviate the stress and anxiety that everyone in education has been feeling during this challenging time. We are currently discussing ways we can accomplish this important goal, and will keep you updated on the status of our efforts.

In closing, please remember that there are a multitude of resources available if you or someone you know needs help. They include the [partnership we have with ReferralGPS](#) and the links we have posted on the websites for [Hinsdale Central](#) and [Hinsdale South](#). We also have amazing counselors, social workers and support staff in our HR department who can connect you with additional services or support if you need them.

If you have any questions about this decision or its impact on our students, faculty and staff, please contact Superintendent Prentiss at tprentis@hinsdale86.org. In the meantime, we want to thank you for your time and attention to this message. We also want to wish you a safe and restful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Terri Walker
District 86 Board President

Tammy Prentiss
Superintendent

Hinsdale Township High School District 86 | 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

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Sent by tprentis@hinsdale86.org

From: [Terri Walker](mailto:twalker@hinsdale86.org) on behalf of [Terri Walker <twalker@hinsdale86.org>](mailto:twalker@hinsdale86.org)
To: [Debbie Levinthal](mailto:dlevinthal@hinsdale86.org); [Tammy Prentiss](mailto:tprentiss@hinsdale86.org)
Subject: Re: Extension of Thanksgiving break
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:55:45 PM

Debbie,

The announcement went out because it would be impossible to implement all of the operational necessities by Friday November 19, 2021.

According to legal counsel, [REDACTED].

Thank you,

Terri

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 10:56 AM Debbie Levinthal <dlevinthal@hinsdale86.org> wrote:
Good morning,

I don't understand why this announcement went out prior to Thursday night's board meeting?
The announcement by the board president that approval is anticipated implies that [REDACTED]

Thanks,
Debbie

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Board President Terri Walker and Superintendent Tammy Prentiss**
<tprentiss@hinsdale86.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 8:57 AM
Subject: Extension of Thanksgiving break
To: <dlevinthal@hinsdale86.org>



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If you have any questions about this decision or its impact on our students, faculty and staff, please contact Superintendent Prentiss at tprentis@hinsdale86.org. In the meantime, we want to thank you for your time and attention to this message. We also want to wish you a safe and restful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Terri Walker
District 86 Board President

Tammy Prentiss
Superintendent

Hinsdale Township High School District 86 | 5500 S. Grant St., Hinsdale, IL 60521

[Unsubscribe dlevinthal@hinsdale86.org](mailto:dlevinthal@hinsdale86.org)

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Sent by tprentis@hinsdale86.org

From: [Tammy Prentiss](#) on behalf of [Tammy Prentiss <tprentis@hinsdale86.org>](#)
To: [Board of Education](#)
Subject: proposed calendar change: DO NOT REPLY ALL
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 3:16:19 PM

Good afternoon,

This message blew is from a school in Missouri. I spoke with President Walker earlier today and I would like the BOE to consider approving a calendar change this Thursday to mirror this message. D86 students currently attend 180 instructional days (ISBE requires 176) and therefore we could have all employees and students have two self-care days and not need to make them up.

Please contact me directly if I can answer any questions that you might have. Please send me a text as to whether you believe you would support this calendar change. Our students and staff would greatly appreciate it.
Thank you for considering,

Tammy

As we have navigated the start of this school year together, we can all agree this has been one of the most difficult years that students and staff have experienced in our lifetime. These unprecedented challenges have caused significant additional stress on our entire school community. Teachers and District staff are working tirelessly and putting others before themselves to serve our students and families while balancing the transition of returning to the learning environment.

Even in these challenging times, each of you has demonstrated resilience and dedication to educating and supporting our students.

I've had the opportunity to visit every school, and during my time talking with many of you, the message has been clear -- time is needed to rest and recharge.

The Board and administration care deeply about the health and wellness of our school community. To better support the mental wellbeing of our staff and students, the Board voted unanimously to observe Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 as FFSD self-care days. The District will now observe the entire week of Nov. 22-26 for the Thanksgiving holiday to offer a well-deserved extended break for all students and staff. We will not need to make up these days later in the school year.

--

Tammy Prentiss Ed.S.

Hinsdale Township High School District 86
630-655-6110
tprentis@hinsdale86.org

From: [Tammy.Prentiss](mailto:Tammy.Prentiss@hinsdale86.org) on behalf of Tammy.Prentiss-ctprentis@hinsdale86.org
To: Terri.Walker
Subject: This was shared with me by HHSTA... any interest in polling BOE members 1:1 to see if interested? would need to be on 11/18 agenda
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 2:08:40 PM

FFSD SELF-CARE WELLNESS DAYS

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Tammy Prentiss Ed.S.
Hinsdale Township High School District 86
630-655-6110
tprentis@hinsdale86.org

4:50

LTE 

< 14



7 People >

Sat, Nov 13, 3:17 PM

Tammy Prentiss

TP

Please check your email when you can- not an emergency but feedback requested!


Kathleen Hirshman

KH

I'm in full support of the two days. For clarity, perhaps spell out what is "FFSD"
Kathleen

Jeff Waters

JW

I am also in full support 

Wednesday 6:28 AM



Text Message

