

## **In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent**

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

### Balanced Calendar Recommendation for CPS Board of Education

At the April 18, 2016, Board of Education meeting, I provided a presentation with the recommendation that the Board consider moving forward with the implementation of a balanced calendar for the district’s 2017-18 school year. The 2016-17 school year would be a transitional year and allow everyone to have time to prepare for the new calendar format, if it is decided to make the change from a traditional calendar.

The recommendation I provided comes after eighteen months of review and assessment of the balanced calendar concept and what it could mean for our students and school district. The Board of Education will consider and evaluate the merits of the recommendation over the next several weeks leading to their May 9, 2016 meeting. At their May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board will make a decision to either support the recommendation to move towards implementing the balanced calendar in 2017-18, to stay with the traditional calendar with a post Labor Day start, or go with another calendar that meets the school year requirements expected from the State.

The presentation with the recommendation will be posted on our school district website for our community to review. In addition, we will post the community’s survey results for everyone in the community to review.

The recommendation I provided was not an easy one for me to submit. I genuinely and honestly can see benefits with both types of calendars - traditional and balanced. As shared in the presentation to the Board, creating conditions in the best interest of students is what ultimately should be the top consideration and be given the highest priority. The academic standards and expectations placed upon our students, at all levels K-12, are very intense and challenging. Distributing the school year balanced over the calendar year makes the work load more manageable. The number of instructional days remains the same with the balanced calendar, it simply distributes them evenly over eleven months instead of nine.

This recommendation could result in a significant change not only for our school district, but also our community. Change is never easy. Ultimately, I had to ask, “What is best for the students we serve?” The answer I kept coming back to is, having them involved with our schools and the district offerings over the majority of the calendar year. I believe it is better for our students academically, socially, emotionally and behaviorally and can help them engage with everything we have to offer to support them in their growth and success into the future.

The Board of Education and our district will have approximately three weeks to consider this recommendation. Thank you for sharing your input through our community survey and know that it is valued.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!