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## No more half-days for Mounds View students

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SHOREVIEW — It may be good news for working parents: the 2010-2011 calendar for Mounds View Schools will include no half-days, and all students will be on the same schedule regardless of whether they're in elementary or secondary school.

"On half-days I have repeatedly gotten feedback, and they're problematic for a number of reasons," said district Director of Human Resources and Operations John Ward at a Jan. 12 School Board meeting. "We (haven't) had all students in K-12 in school every day ... and it's a hardship for parents who have (both) high school and elementary students."

Ward led a district committee that formed the new calendar and briefly presented it to the board last week. He said the district is slated to save at least \$100,000 in transportation costs by adjusting the half-days. None of the other changes will cost the district more money than in the past.

District Superintendent Dan Hoverman noted that the calendar does involve a slight adjustment in daily schedules, with students attending school "a few minutes earlier and a few minutes later" each day.

In other details of the calendar:

- School will start Sept. 7, the day after Labor Day
- MEA will be Oct. 21 and 22
- Spring Break will remain the third week of March (March 14 through 18)
- Winter Break will start Dec. 23
- On Martin Luther King Day, students won't attend school but staff will have instruction
- The school year will end June 8 for students and June 10 for teachers
- High school students will take two finals per day during finals week. "We'll pair them up by departments, like English and social studies," Ward said. "It should make logical sense, and we'll have some study time between (tests) so (the students) are not so overburdened."

In other news, the board approved a 2009-2011 contract with the Clerical Union of School Service Employees Local 284. The agreement includes wage increases of 1 percent the first year, 1 percent the second year, and total salary and benefits package increase of 7.17 percent over the two years.

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