

Sachem Central School District

Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11741

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Education

FROM: James J. Nolan
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: November 28, 2012

RE: **Loss of Seven Instructional Days**

Dear Members of the Board,

I realize that I have previously shared my thoughts on the loss of instructional days due to the hurricane, but I would like to summarize a few thoughts prior to our discussion next Wednesday.

We lost a total of seven days - 10/29, 10/30, 10/31, 11/1, 11/2, 11/5, 11/8. Our school calendar includes 180 days of instruction and three teacher conference days for a total of 183 days. New York State requires a total of 180 days to avoid a penalty in State Aid. At the current time, we have 176 days. My recommendation is to open school during the February break from Tuesday, February 19 through Friday, February 22, and also on Monday, April 1. This would have us at 181 days which would meet the State requirements, still leave us with one snow day, but most importantly, allow us to make up for lost instructional time. I fully understand that both employees and students may already have vacation plans and that there is the possibility of absenteeism, but I believe this is the most proactive win/win scenario possible at this time. Hopefully, we will not have the need for more than one snow day, but if we do I would recommend the following:

- 2 snow days - Open 3/25
- 3 snow days - Open 3/25, 3/27
- 4 snow days - Open 3/25, 3/27, 3/28

Please know that we have been told by the State that extending school days would not be allowable, and even if the State were to forgive lost time, they would require our district to first exhaust all possible vacation/recess time.

Obviously, this is not an easy decision, nor did we anticipate or bring this upon ourselves. The key is to work interdependently, try our very best to understand, and continue to provide an environment that will enable our students to meet with success and become the very best version of themselves.

Thank you for your consideration. As always, I am open to suggestions.