



School Commissioner's Corner

By Mariam Stoll - Ward 5

Hello and welcome to the new school year!

adopt, with some flexibility for scheduling half-days, additional teaching days, professional development days, etc...

Generally, the superintendents' proposals are consistent year to year, however, this year they have suggested changes. Key among them is shortening the summer by 2 weeks and dividing the school year into evenly distributed periods when school is in session, alternated with shorter periods of "intersession". During the intersessions students would participate in different options based on their academic needs and individual preferences.

If Calendar 2.0 is adopted Burlington would join many districts across the nation that no longer follow a traditional agrarian-based calendar. Given the changing landscape of education, I believe that updating the school calendar might make sense if doing so im-

proves outcomes for students.

However, at this time it is difficult to determine if Calendar 2.0 is a good fit for the Burlington School District and if it will, in fact, improve student outcomes. Is there empirical research to demonstrate that intersessions increase student achievement? Does Calendar 2.0 support Burlington's goal of an equitable and inclusive education for all children?

How will intersession activities be funded? Will Burlington parents be able to adjust their work and childcare schedules to accommodate the new schedule? These are just some of the questions that have been brought to me by Burlington community members.

The regional superintendents have not yet made a decision regarding whether Calendar 2.0 will be adopted in full, in part or at all. However, by law the school calendar for the 2014-

15 school year must be set by April 1st 2014, so between now and then a decision will be made. At Burlington High School on October 9 at 6:30 pm the Vermont Superintendent's Association is holding a public forum about these proposed calendar changes. They will be providing more details about Calendar 2.0 and the rationale behind it, and are seeking input from the Burlington community. I urge you to join me there!

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Presenters at the Summit of Roth-Williams Orthodontists in Brazil



The people in the photo, from left to right, are Edward Gottesman DDS, Holly Spence PT, PRC, Michael Gunson MD, Dara Chira DMD & Jeff McClendon DDS. photo provided

Dara Chira DMD of Chira Orthodontics in Burlington and Holly Spence PT, PRC of Cornerstone Physical Therapy in Williston were invited to present at an international summit of Roth-Williams Orthodontists in Sao Paulo, Brazil on the value of an interdisciplinary approach to care and pain management for complex dental patients.

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