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(Neb.)-School Board Will Have To Address Possible Extended School Year



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 04/15/2013 09:00 AM

(Chadron)-Students in the area received an unplanned spring break last week when winter storm Walda dumped up to two feet of snow in some spots, but those days off of school may mean an extended school year. Chadron Schools Superintendent Dr. Caroline Winchester said that although no final decision has been made, it is certainly a possibility.

Normally, the school figures in two snow days, but Winchester said those two days were used at the beginning of the year with the fires that burned in late August. Now, it is possible the school year will be slightly extended to make up for the three snow days that were used last week.

According to Winchester, a calendar change must be approved by the Board of Education, who will next meet on May 13. That is very close to the end of school, but Winchester doesn't feel that is anything to worry about. If the board does vote to extend the school year by three days, the students would get out on May 23 as opposed to May 20. She said that there are some students who will be leaving to go to Washington DC and Europe when school is out, and if the extra days are added to the calendar, those students can complete their work prior to the trip and their plans will not have to change.

Winchester noted that any parents who have plans with their children that may be affected by an extended calendar can also request to have their student leave school early as long as their work is completed prior to their leaving. However, nothing is official until the school board addresses the issue.

This week, there is a chance of another spring storm, which could also affect the schools. Winchester said officials will wait and see what this storm brings before making any other predictions. However, she said she will not complain about the moisture. Parents, and students, can watch for any decisions on the Chadron Public Schools web page, www.chadronschools.org, or check Chadrad.com after the Board meeting on May 13.

(Questions? Comments? Email news@chadrad.com)

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