

October 24, 2017

TO: Superintendent Carpenter

From: Clinton Deschene

RE: Harvest Break Costs

Superintendent Carpenter:

Two years ago the board recommended leaving Harvest Break in place for 3 more years. A significant part of the conversation was that if a change was ever going to occur that it would best to give notice. In addition I think the use of Harvest Break is a hard issue to analyze because it involves educational impact, economic impact, historical impact / heritage of the County, and fiscal impacts. All of these have pros and cons that different people put different values.

If the District, School Board, waits until next November or December to consider this item it is likely we could face the same comments about notice. Additionally, no amount of public meetings could generate consensus. Many residents feel uncomfortable debating this issue because they see both sides. No matter what direction the Board chooses it will be scrutinized.

However, some community members have asked why this couldn't go to vote. I am concerned that harvest does feel like educational policy is being impacted. However, since the determination is next to impossible to determine with certainty the opinion of our community does seem to be a valid consideration.

The growing cooperation between our 5 member communities is very strong. Some have of the local officials have posed, conversationally, a vote. All of this considered there appears to be a possible plan that could be considered. Procedurally it would follow the following steps:

1. Present the School Board the updated data for 2017.
2. The School Board would then vote to sustain harvest in the same format for the fall of 2018.
3. The School Board would request that all 5 communities present a non-binding question to the voters for the election in the fall of 2018. (This election is a gubernatorial election with a likelihood of good turnout. It would be non-binding on the School Board but would give a strong indication of the view of the citizens in the District.)
4. Make it clear that this vote does not mandate action by the School Board but will be seriously consider after the election when a direction is determined. I would propose the Board could decide in November or December of 2018.
5. Share a new policy that if Harvest Break is eliminated, in its current format, that it will be replaced as follows:
 - a. All students PreK to 12 will have the same calendar. Students eligible to work for a farmer would be allowed to work if:
 - i. A farmer requests a specific student to work.

- ii. The student is in good academic standing as determined by the Principal's Office.
- iii. The student promises to make up all work.
- iv. The student can be dismissed for no more than 3 weeks ending on Columbus Day.
- v. If it is raining or the farmer does not need the student they promise to come to school.
- vi. The student promises to make up all work by the return of holiday break.

Overall, the only "risk" to voting is that what happens if it is very close. This will make the Board's review much more difficult. However, if it clearly one way or the other then it should be communicated that the Board would intend to implement that direction. The question is what percentage difference is clear? I would let the full School Board set that percentage but I would suggest that anything greater than a 10% difference would be close to a clear majority.

**PRESQUE ISLE HIGH SCHOOL
HARVEST SURVEY RESULTS OCTOBER 2017**

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
Harvest Related Work	2	19	31	26
School Farm Workers	5	14	9	15
Non-Harvest Related Work	33	38	49	63
Did Not Work	81	74	54	25
TOTALS	121	145	143	129

HARVEST RELATED JOBS

Handpicking	1	3	5	3
Harvester		3	9	6
Potato House	1	11	16	13
Truck Driver			1	1
Wind Rower		2		1
Other				2
TOTALS	2	19	31	26

Total	Students Surveyed - 538	Students	Dollars	Percent
	Harvest Related Work	78	\$124,674	14.5%
	School Farm	43		8.0%
	Non-Harvest Work	183		34.0%
	Did Not Work	234		43.5%
GRADE 9	Students Surveyed - 121			
	Harvest Work	2	\$ 1,980	1.6%
	School Farm	5		4.1%
	Non-Harvest Work	33		27.3%
	Did Not Work	81		67.0%
GRADE 10	Students Surveyed - 145			
	Harvest Work	19	\$ 30,902	13.1%
	School Farm	14		9.7%
	Non-Harvest Work	38		26.2%
	Did Not Work	74		51.0%
GRADE 11	Students Surveyed - 143			
	Harvest Work	31	\$ 41,224	21.7%
	School Farm	9		6.3%
	Non-Harvest Work	49		34.3%
	Did Not Work	54		37.7%
GRADE 12	Students Surveyed - 129			
	Harvest Work	26	\$ 50,563	20.2%
	School Farm	15		11.6%
	Non-Harvest Work	63		48.8%
	Did Not Work	25		19.4%

STUDENT HARVEST SURVEY RESULTS 1996-2017

GRADE	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
9	20	11	21	15	16	22	39	21	33
10	25	31	32	27	32	40	45	36	47
11	48	46	42	37	58	43	53	49	43
12	52	35	30	53	38	40	37	38	48
Totals	125	123	144	145	174	144	171	144	171
Percent	19.2%	20.40%	22.47%	22.20%	25.3%	21.3%	24.8%	21.3%	24.8%
Dollars	\$134,553	\$143,882	\$144,756	\$116,206	\$114,019	\$90,304	\$119,076	\$90,304	\$119,076

NON-HARVEST RELATED WORK

GRADE	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
9	29	19	22	27	32	52	57	38	47
10	29	52	41	38	44	55	62	57	67
11	67	77	41	43	54	62	66	83	59
12	75	73	74	68	76	75	99	91	85
Totals	200	221	193	176	206	244	284	269	258
Percent	31.4%	35.1%	29.7%	27.2%	32.14%	37.37%	241.3%	39.9%	37.4%
Dollars	\$76,656	\$97,484	\$81,179	\$65,070	\$91,878	\$84,156	\$86,364	\$85,281	\$78,506

DID NOT WORK HARVEST

GRADE	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
9	118	127	144	143	129	87	82	106	95
10	93	88	98	92	70	75	62	80	77
11	55	39	98	68	56	58	52	52	61
12	27	32	34	36	36	44	34	24	25
Totals	293	286	333	339	291	264	230	262	260
Percent	45.4%	51.1%	52.4%	45.4%	45.39%	39.43%	33.4%	38.8%	37.8%
GRAND TOTALS	638	630	651	647	641	542	688	675	689

STUDENT HARVEST SURVEY RESULTS 1996-2017

GRADE	1998	1997	1996
9	41	39	60
10	45	66	61
11	55	64	58
12	54	55	58
Totals	195	224	237
Percent	27.5%	32.5%	34.3%
Dollars	\$126,564	\$146,785	\$98,352

NON-HARVEST RELATED WORK

GRADE	1998	1997	1996
9	56	45	50
10	49	43	41
11	60	62	54
12	78	63	73
Totals	243	213	
Percent	34.3%	30.9%	31.6%
Dollars	\$76,656	\$54,532	\$50,001

DID NOT WORK HARVEST

GRADE	1998	1997	1996
9	78	93	67
10	84	75	81
11	60	42	56
12	48	42	32
Totals	270	252	236
Percent	38.2%	36.3%	34.1%
GRAND TOTALS	708	689	691

TOTAL HARVEST WORKERS MINUS SCHOOL FARM 1993-2017

YEAR	TOTAL STUDENTS	WORKED HARVEST	PERCENT	SCHOOL FARM	NEW TOTAL	NEW PERCENT
2017	538	121	22.5%	43	78	14%
2016	559	67	12.0%			
2015	562	73	12.98%			
2014	553	147	26.6%	61	85	15.4%
2013	542	121	22.3%	35	86	15.86%
2012	556	136	24.5%	48	88	15.82%
2011	572	123	21.5%	48	75	13.12%
2010	548	105	19.2%	24	81	14.78%
2009	583	141	24.2%	17	124	21.27%
2006	651	125	19.2%	missing		
2005	647	132	20.4%	17	115	17.77%
2004	641	144	22.47%	42	102	15.91%
2003	653	145	22.20%	9	136	20.82%
2002	688	174	25.3%	14	160	23.25%
2001	675	144	21.3%	10	134	19.85%
2000	689	171	24.8%	20	151	21.91%
1998	708	195	27.5%	5	190	26.84%
1997	689	224	32.5%	15	209	30.33%
1996	691	237	34.30%	13	224	32.41%
1995	705	211	29.93%	11	200	28.37%
1994	708	233	32.9%	7	226	31.92%
1993	733	242	33.1%	No Farm		

PRESQUE ISLE HIGH SCHOOL

Number of students missing school the weeks before and after Harvest Break

DATE	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Two Weeks Prior to Break											
Tuesday, September									1	2	
Wednesday, September								1			
Thursday, September								1		2	
Friday, September				3		1		1			
One Weeks Prior to Break											
Monday, September		1	3	6		1	5	4	2		3
Tuesday, September	1	2	3	7	2	2	5	6	2	1	3
Wednesday, September	4	2	5	7	8	1	3	6	3	2	2
Thursday, September	10	4	8	9	10	4	5	6	3	3	
Friday, September						4	5				3
First Week After Break											
Tuesday, October	4		3	2	3			16	24	13	11
Wednesday, October	3		1	1	2	16	21	14	21	8	2
Thursday, October	3		1			1	14	11	21	7	2
Friday, October							9	10	21	5	1
Second Week After Break											
Monday, October							3	3	1	1	
Tuesday, October							3	1	2		
Wednesday, October						6		1	3		
Thursday, October						9		1	3		
Friday, October								1			

**PRESQUE ISLE HIGH SCHOOL
NUMBER OF STUDENTS MISSING SCHOOL FOR HARVEST BY GRADE LEVEL**

FALL 2017

DATE	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	TOTAL
Tuesday, September 12				1	1
Wednesday, September 13				4	4
Thursday, September 14		1	3	6	10
Wednesday, October 11		1	1	2	4
Thursday, October 12			1	2	3
Friday, October 13			1	2	3

FALL 2016

DATE	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	TOTAL
Monday, September 12			1		1
Tuesday, September 13			2		2
Wednesday, September 14			2		2
Thursday, September 15		1	3		4

FALL 2015

DATE	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	TOTAL
Monday, September 14		1		2	3
Tuesday, September 15		1		2	3
Wednesday, September 16		1	1	3	5
Thursday, September 17	1	2	1	4	8
Tuesday, October 13				3	3
Wednesday, October 14				1	1
Thursday, October 15				1	1

**PRESQUE ISLE HIGH SCHOOL
HARVEST SURVEY RESULTS BY FARMER BY TOWN OCTOBER 2001-2017**

FALL	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Bridgewater		1												2	1	1	
Caribou	2	2	2	5	3	1	1			1	2	5	4	5	4	1	
Castle Hill													2	1	1	1	1
Caswell												1	1				
Chapman																1	
Connor	1	1	1	1													
Crouseville	1											1					
Easton	1	4	4	3	4	1	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	5
Fort Fairfield	2	1	1			2	1	3	2	1		3	4	2	3	6	3
Grand Isle																	1
Hamlin	1																
Hodgdon														1			
Houlton								1	1					1			
Limestone	5	2	2	1	2	1	1		1			1	1	2			
Mapleton	3	3	4	3	5	6	6	5	3	6	5	6	7	9	8	6	6
Mars Hill	2	1		2	3	3	3	2	1			1	1	1	2	1	3
Monticello				1		1	1	1								1	1
New Sweden																	1
Perham												1				1	
Presque Isle	7	8	8	9	11	10	8	11	12	12	12	10	14	14	18	17	15
St. David						1	1										
Van Buren									1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Washburn	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	2	4	2	1	3
Westfield			1			1	1	2	2	2	2	1		2			
Woodland		1	1	1	2								1	1			
GRAND TOTALS	29	26	25	28	32	28	25	30	29	29	27	37	39	47	45	43	38

**PRESQUE ISLE HIGH SCHOOL
HARVEST SURVEY RESULTS BY FARMER OCTOBER 2017**

FARMER	TOWN	GRADE	GRADE	GRADE	GRADE
		9	10	11	12
Aroostook Research Farm	Presque Isle		1	3	3
Beaulieu, Steve	Limestone			2	
Blackstone Farms	Caribou				2
Bubar Bros	Fort Fairfield		2		1
Buck Farms	Presque Isle			1	2
County Super Spuds	Presque Isle		1	1	
Crabtree, Craig	Mars Hill		1		
Crown Farms/McGlenn's	Presque Isle		1	4	1
Doyen Farms	Mapleton				3
Flewelling, Brent	Easton			1	1
Grass Farms	Mars Hill			2	
Green Meadow Farms/Braley's	Mapleton		2	3	
Griffeth Farms	Limestone			1	
Hemphill Farms	Presque Isle	1	2		2
Ireland Farms	Easton		1		1
Leavitt Farms	Limestone			2	
Madore Farms	Connor				1
Martin Farms	Caribou				
McCains	Easton			1	1
Morrell, Dana	Limestone				1
Parent, James	Hamlin			1	
Porter Farms	Presque Isle	1		1	1
Roy, C Farms	Limestone				
Smith Farms/Dasco	Mapleton		1		1
Staples Farm	Presque Isle		5	6	3
Stewart Farms	Easton			1	
Tarr Farms	Washburn				1
Thibeau Farms	Fort Fairfield			1	
Turner Farms	Washburn		1		
White Farms	Crouseville		1		
TOTALS BY FARMERS		2	19	31	26

**PRESQUE ISLE HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HARVEST SURVEY
October 2017**

STUDENT NAME _____ GRADE _____
(Please Print – First & Last Name)

1. Did you work during Harvest Break? Yes _____ No _____
(Volunteering does not count) If no, sign your name below.

2. Was the work Harvest related (for a potato farmer)? Yes _____ No _____ **
(School Farm does not count) If no, sign your name below

**** If not Harvest related skip to # 9**

If yes, what kind of work was performed, please pick one main job only:

Handpicking _____

Harvester _____

Potato House _____

Barrel Loader _____

Windrower _____

Truck Driver _____

Babysitting _____ *(for someone directly working the potato harvest)*

Other *(please specify)* _____

5. Which Potato Farmer did you work for? _____

6. What town did you work in? _____

7. How many days did you work? _____

a. How many hours per day? _____

b. What was your rate of pay? _____

8. Approximately how much money did you earn before taxes? _____

***This figure is kept confidential and is used strictly for determining the total amount of income earned during Harvest.*

9. If you did work and it was not for a Potato Farmer, for whom did you work?

(Signature of Student)