

## **Presentation to the USD 355 School Board** by Wayne Edward Richardson on 8 March 2004, adapted:

I am here to speak briefly about changing to The World Calendar in 2012. Each of you has a handout that includes a copy of this improved calendar.

If we cannot fully memorize the Gregorian calendar, that prolongs otherwise minimal schedule reinvention each year. Within the approximately 17,000 school districts in the United States, the actual, somewhat invisible cost associated with annual renegotiations of the school calendar might be unknown. Any amount of tax dollars times 17,000 adds up fairly quickly and that's just in the United States. What's the exchange for time and tax dollars spent? It's the opportunity to do it again next year instead of something more directly beneficial to EDUCATION. This really isn't all that amazing, though, since our Gregorian calendar has been around since 1582. When we, and our parents and grandparents were kids asking questions about the Gregorian calendar, certainly some of the answers must have included "that's the way it is" and "so get used to it". And we did. And we forgot we asked. And then maybe sometimes gave similar answers to young children and grandchildren, curious about why the clock is so simple when the calendar is not.

If, instead of our present calendar, The World Calendar were in place, it would allow the school year to start and end on the same dates each year. Holiday schedules, once established, could remain unchanged until someone decided to open specific discussion in some later year.

I know I may make THE WORLD CALENDAR IN 2012 goal sound easy, but it is . . . and it is not. The time is right because communication technology exists or is developing that will allow enough people to become aware of their ability to play even a small part in a huge and hugely beneficial project. It's not simple, though, because among the people who do plan beyond next month, many might not ever care that there's a better calendar waiting to be acknowledged, implemented and in due course once again, ignored. Most students have more to gain from a better calendar than you or I simply because they're younger. They, more than any generation before them, have the tools they can use to make it happen.

Ultimately, I hope that enough people like yourselves will remember The World Calendar in 2012 goal as a self-imposed deadline and give it extra credit along the way as a chance to make more difference in this world than you may have ever before expected. I hope that others will hear something about this from you and anticipate that you'll soon hear even more about it from others.