

Discussion Notes: August 21, 2019

We held a special discussion session August 21 to discuss the calendar. Administration made sub arrangements to allow teacher members of the team to attend. The Board received the draft calendars at its August 14 meeting. Administration plans to present any additional modifications and hopes for a Board calendar vote at its August 28 meeting. The discussion team may offer suggestions, but the Board controls the calendar adoption. One board member had even suggested a two-week independent study at all levels to start later in the school year. We decided to recommend preserving the week-long fall break which pushes the start date to the first week in August.

Flex Days

Both parents and teachers expressed concern with the use of three consecutive flex days last year. Thus, flex days returned to calendar in case we missed more than two consecutive days. Same-day e-learning would be how most days would be made up. HSEA suggested the flex day in March move to a Friday instead of Monday.

185th Day

Currently the 185th teacher work day is executed through six hours of parent conferences in September or October. Typically, administrators designate a couple of evenings when they will be in the building though conferences need not be held during those two evenings. This practice has worked well for elementary and intermediate, but not as well at the secondary level due to the number of students each teacher has. So, we recommended keeping what worked and shifting what does not. HSEA suggested that the first day back after winter break in January could be used for professional development for secondary teachers. Elementary and intermediate teachers who did October conferences would have that day off to make up for the conferencing hours outside the school day. The teacher work day between semesters would then be on the Tuesday with students returning on Wednesday. Dr. Loane also mentioned that elementary & intermediate related arts teachers might prefer the secondary model.

PLC Time

HSEA suggested that PLCs be embedded within the student day and be in the morning. Currently, the arrival time for secondary and intermediate is 7:25 AM. The day would start with PLC on Mondays. Students would arrive late. Currently elementary teacher arrival time is 8:35 AM. PLC time would then start for that level. Again, this is an idea as the Board would make the final determination. If start times are flipped, PLC arrival time would flip. Administration is investigating this option with state required minutes.

Flipping Start Times

Superintendent Dr. Bourff indicated that flipping start times would be studied during the first semester with a Board vote expected in December or January.

Modified Block

As we continue to explore different calendar options, administration suggested that this might be an optimum time to consider implementing some type of modified block at junior high/high school. This will be discussed more.

Attendees

Administrators:

Brian Behrman, Tige Butts, Dr. Allen Bourff, Dr. Jan Combs, Jeff Harrison, Matt Kegley, Kim Lippe, Dr. Stephanie Loane, Wendy Natalie, Jagga Rent

HSEA:

Janet Chandler, Becky Floetker, Brent Freed, Maria Ging, Peggy Savin