

Calendar Committee
October 29, 2019

Members in Attendance: Will Barber, Kirsty Cady, Steve Labau, Gwen Hamlin, John Carruthers, Cyndi Cook, Sheryl Sharp, Laurie Maughan, Leah Call, Veronica Maple, Eric Maine and Tammy Wallen. Joe Millard was unable to attend.

1. Committee Member Introductions

Introductions were done. Will asked each member to share any burning issues that they have regarding the calendar. Items shared were October days, lack of full days for P/D, trimester at elementary level, PSAT coverage, day off in spring – April to May, parent teacher conference schedule was an issue this year at both levels, not enough time for everyone.

2. Committee Charge

The committee members reviewed the committee charge.

Discussion of item #9, changes could be made to those items, but need to have conversation with the superintendent first.

3. Set Ground Rules, Norms and Decision-Making Process

Be respectful and all allow every voice to be heard.

Discussion of voting protocol. There are 12 voting members consensus for 2/3 vote for an item to pass.

4. Key Items of Discussion – i.e. start and end dates for semesters

Discussion regarding semester end date. Secondary is looking forward to ending the first semester at Christmas break. Consensus at the elementary level is that trimester is a better grading term for elementary students.

- Discussion of difference days off for elementary and secondary students.
- Day off for secondary students has impacted attendance at the elementary level previously when they were different.
- Would like to have at least targeted conference opportunities for the end of the 2nd trimester.
- Discussion of why the trimester discussion ended at the secondary level. Issues with CTE and performing arts classes.
- Discussion that secondary staff were looking forward to a way out of block, that they saw the trimester might lead to this.
- Discussion of the reporting at the elementary and that the trimester system made it easier. Weighing the pig vs. feeding it.
- Discussion of other conversations that may be happening regarding grading terms.

5. Group Discussion Around Surrounding District Calendars

Discussion of breaks.

6. Survey

The committee members discussed the results from survey last year. Overwhelming staff preference was to finish the school year the week after Memorial Day.

Discussion regarding using a survey again this year.

- October days conversation would be helpful.

- Discussion of the number of professional development days and the impact with subs.
- Discussion regarding using PD days within the school year.
- Discussion regarding more PD – what are we looking for building directed or opportunities for teachers to go.
 - There have been requests for both.
 - SBG
 - Maybe longer release on Wednesday to allow deeper discussions
 - 4th grade science training, 2 half days and one full day
 - District directed accounts for some of it, but there are principals who are bringing groups together to review data
 - Discussion regarding placement of PD days and the use of personal days on those days
- The survey last year was for a one-year calendar only.
- People want to know that their voice is being heard.
- Discussion regarding asking what people like.
- Discussion of shorter summer break this year due to the changes.
- Survey with the thought that this is a 2-year calendar.
- Some items have been put into the committee charge.
- Desire to have plenty of feedback prior to a 2-year calendar.
- Come back with items that you would like to gather feedback on.
- Trimester discussion
- Would like to know from teachers the impact of the differences between the 2 semesters
- Discussion of doing more than one survey
- If we survey it would need to happen soon to be able to move forward in the work

7. Next Meeting Direction

The next 3 meetings were scheduled for November 7th, 20th and December 5th from 4:30 to 6 p.m.