

Calendar Committee Notes January 15, 2020

Members in Attendance: Gwen Hamlin, Joe Millard, Cyndi Cook, Will Barber, Veronica Maple, Leigha Call, Steve Labau, Laurie Maughan, John Carruthers, Kirsti Cady, Joe Millard, Eric Maine and Tammy Wallen.

1. Calendar Survey Data

The committee broke into groups to review the survey responses.

Main take points shared from the stakeholder groups are:

Elementary Teachers

- +5% of teachers were in favor of trimesters
- Majority in favor of continuing Wednesday early release
- Need more time for conferences in fall – maybe spring targeted
- They feel P/T Conference time is valuable
- 2-hour early release good before Christmas, kids were checked out
- October days not necessary

Middle School Teachers

- Good survey participation
- 60% of responses are in favor of 2 semesters with the 1st ending at Christmas
- Wednesday early release votes were in favor of keeping, but comments were negative
 - Teachers have issues with travel taking too much time
 - In building is better, but teachers still want more time
 - Horizontal comments shared were negative
- Do not like the 2-hour early release days – not instructionally effective or assessments given
 - Logistically a struggle these days
 - Some schools use a 90-minute block some 30 minutes class times
- Comments and votes were different on the October days
 - Teachers want to take them off
 - Not for PD necessarily
 - Many teachers don't participate in PD if they have to pay for it
- Like current calendar

High School Teacher & Students

- 75% of students want the 1st semester to end before Christmas break and a full week off at Thanksgiving
- Teachers want the same
- Finals – teacher responses do not show evidence to change current practice in high schools
- October days 60% of teachers responded that there is no PD available for them
- Wednesdays 72% effective – but this is not PD, this is PLC/T time

- When asked about changing to a different PD model there was not overwhelming data to change
- Feedback was shared to be consistent with the calendar – we change too frequently
- Teacher turnover makes the horizontal work difficult as well
- Would like to see P/T conferences in fall and spring

Administrators – Principals, VP and DO Leaders

- Elementary administrators prefer a trimester
- Middle school would like to keep semester and quarter
- End 1st semester at Christmas
- In favor of spreading PD out throughout the year
- Want to keep Wednesday early release
- No 2-hour early release
- P/T elementary schools need more time
 - Discussion of staggering the timing
- Response in favor of adding spring conferences

Parents

- Wednesdays either keep or full day off
- Conferences – time for all
- Would like to see fall and spring
- Thanksgiving break split on a full week off
- Comments
 - Some support for early release on Friday
 - Shorter breaks
 - 1st semester end before Christmas
 - 4-day school week
 - 5-day kindergarten week is hard on kids
 - Full day Wed for childcare issues
 - Later start for secondary
 - Fall and Spring P/T conferences
 - Don't like half days before break – not productive for kids
 - Like a lot of the current calendar

Wednesday early release discussion

PLC time looks different at many schools

Some use as PD some use as PLC time

Discussion of having different transportation options for high school students – specifically for the 2-hour early release days.

Discussion of trimester for elementary, and how that change would happen.

Next Meeting – January 30, 2020 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Bring back a mock calendar for 2020-2021.