

Calendar Committee
November 7, 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, Joe Millard and Tammy Wallen.

1. Who our Decisions are Made for

Laurie walked the committee through an exercise analyzing the impact the calendar committee decisions have in relation to the seven strategy areas of the district.

Strategy Area 1: Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum – Consistent flow of time is important in faithful delivery of the curriculum.

Strategy Area 2: Highly Effective Instruction – Frequent, heavy use of subs puts stress on the school as a whole. Consistently pulling teachers from instruction for PD is a concern.

Strategy Area 3: Professional Collaboration – PLCs need more time to be effective. Discussion of looking at something different for Wednesday early release. One-hour is not really enough time for effective PLC/T work.

Strategy Area 4: Focus on Results of the Whole Student – Impact to the community in our calendars our start and stop times impact businesses and families. Staff climate can be impacted by what is perceived as a good or bad calendar. Students need consistency, long breaks are a concern for students who do not have consistent meals at home or support to continue learning.

Strategy Area 5: Leadership – The work of this committee represents all clients. Must consider the needs for teachers and students, we serve them all.

Strategy Area 6: Educational Support Staff – PD to support teachers. Circle back on student learning.

Strategy Area 7: Community Engagement – Need to be sure to have parent representation and input on the work of this committee.

The committee members discussed sharing meeting notes with staff to help with transparency. The committee would like to have Kathleen add an item in her weekly update letting staff know that there are notes available rather than having her directly email to all staff.

2. Idaho Code and Waiver Process

Will reviewed the process to request a waiver for the 60-hour seat-time requirement for high school credit. If the final product of the committee requires a waiver, it is the responsibility of the committee to complete that work. The waiver request for the first semester this current school year was approved by the board at a 3-2 vote. The total seat-time for A day was 58.17 and for B day it was 57.42.

Seat-time could be adjusted by doing something different with one-hour early release every Wednesday.

There was discussion that starting the school year a week earlier to make the semester end at Christmas break possible. Due to payroll issues, teaching staff cannot start prior to August 13th without adding an additional pay period. There was discussion that starting a week earlier may not be a popular option with parents.

3. Trimester Elementary Options Discussion

Steve shared that there were a couple of elementary principals with some questions regarding a change in elementary grading terms to a trimester. The group discussed rationale for considering this change.

- Conferences were a challenge this year. Many felt that it was early to report on standards at the end of the first quarter.
- Discussion of use of our reporting tool.
- Discussion of move to SBG and the question if it would still be vital to end the first semester before Christmas break.
- Concurrent credit classes create an issue at the secondary level and make the end of the first semester at Christmas break important.
- Thought shared that one elementary school focused more on the back side of the report card during conferences.
- Middle school had some questions about it if the discussion was to shift middle schools to a trimester as well. Discussion of reviewing old calendars.
- Discussion of using a PD day for the secondary on the day that elementary are off for conferences, if elementary terms are different than secondary.
- Discussion of changing Wednesday and if that is a change to the footprint of the calendar.

4. Professional Development Discussion

Laurie's team created some options for PD. She shared that they are thinking of a PD catalog to have in use going forward to help with consistent development of teachers.

There has been discussion of changing up the one-hour early release to make them more useful. Concerns that the hour is not enough, especially if staff have to travel.

Discussion of ½ day district kick off.

- Feeling that it is not necessary to do a big lift off at the start of the school year.
- Staff are excited to be back – Manny Scott was great, but it would have been good in January or February.
- One and a half days at the beginning of the school year was not enough time in classrooms.
- Staff give their own time to prep for the school year. It would be best if it was not necessary.

Discussion of PLT time at the elementary level without the one-hour early release time.

- Could be an issue due to the limited prep time.
- Need to be sure that we balance half and full days for elementary.

5. October Days Data

Gwen shared substitute data from October 3rd & 4th. This current school year there were 83 substitute requests for October 3rd. October 4th was heavier, but these two days did not represent an out of the ordinary unfilled rate of sub requests. The requests for personal and PD days were very similar.

There was discussion that more teachers would use these as professional development days if they were not student contact days.

Discussion around balancing building PD with district PD.

6. Survey

The committee members discussed the desire for a survey. Would like to spend a good portion of the next meeting to discuss a potential survey.

- Survey is tricky – discussion of how to survey and make sure that there is that give and take.
- How do you make an effective and meaningful survey with the guidelines that were given in our committee charge?
- Discussion of transparency of meeting discussion helping to alleviate some of the need to survey.
- Discussion that if there is a significant shift proposed a survey would be useful/necessary there.
- If the committee is out in front and willing to back up the decision this helps. We can and have to be able to stand by it.
- Major pillars of the calendar are spelled out in the charge.
- There are things that the committee can ask staff for feedback on beside vacations.
- Take feedback on the final product.
- Discussion of seniors and when they end school.

7. Next Meeting Direction

The next meeting is November 20th. The majority of the discussion will be regarding a survey.