

## **Calendar Committee November 20, 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. Discussion of Survey**

The committee members discussed the target audience for a survey. Some felt that it would be best to determine the target audience before creating the questions.

The committee discussed the 7 strategy areas and how those relate to the work of the committee and creation of a survey.

The team discussed parental input. What feedback are we looking for from parents? It would be different than what teachers would shared. The committee did not survey parents last year, it would be important to get their input.

The committee discussed framing the questions in a way that reflect the impact on learning. Asking students questions about how they learn best, rather than just asking when they want breaks.

The committee members broke into pairs to draft questions focused on each strategy area.

### **Area 1 – G&V Curriculum**

What provides a consistent flow of time to minimize learning distractions – time off can be a distraction. Does the imbalance of semesters cause an issue, what is the impact to student learning. Trying to get away from semester classes at the high school level, not sure if it is a concern. Is the weekly early release Wednesday a good use of time. The committee members discussed some logistical concerns with the block schedule and the impact it creates for seat time.

### **Area 2 – Highly Effective Instruction**

What interrupts your ability to deliver highly effective instruction. This would be a good question for teachers and in a variation, parents. Ask teachers if they give a semester exam at the end of each semester. Ask students how long breaks impact student learning. The committee discussed lost time around Christmas break, with the week before break having the 2 early release days for finals. Then when you get back from break, you have to “jump start the car.”

### **Area 3 – Professional Collaboration**

How effective are the weekly one-hour early release Wednesdays? There was discussion regarding October days. How much PD is available for teachers on those state in-service days? Would it be best to have periodic or frontloaded professional development time?

### **Area 4 – Climate & Culture**

There was discussion regarding cultural differences in our families. Some leave to head to Mexico for extended amounts of time. What would be best for those families in a calendar. Need to look at what is going on in our families, how many families do we have with students in all grade levels. At the elementary level October, November and December are the most important times for student learning and they have the most breaks. What is best for elementary students is not the same as what is best for secondary students.

**Area 5 – Leadership**

The committee feels that teachers and administrators should receive different questions. Specific questions to teachers regarding October days. Ask teachers about specific PD, and ask admin if they would prefer to have these as contract or non-contract days.

Early release Wednesday question for staff, and parents – stay weekly, every 4 weeks ½ day, or one full day every 7 weeks.

Ask teachers, admin and parents if they would prefer to start mid-August to end the first semester in December or start late in August and end mid-January.

**Area 6 & 7 Combined**

Discussion regarding asking for input from support staff with just a text box. Add this as a way to gather their feedback. This could help with gathering information from the community as well. Ask parents about spring P/T Conferences.