

Instruction Subcommittee Meeting Notes 6-18-2020

The task for the small group meeting was to review all of the current schedule models for elementary, middle and high school and then return to the larger group to share. All three models have am/pm models with a Friday full day of distance learning. Different district teams are also working on scheduling additional hours for English Learners and Special Education students, if possible.

The secondary subgroup reported that the middle school principals and teachers had met to come up with a common recommendation as there were multiple variations of schedules for middle schools. The idea was to come up with a schedule that tried to incorporate as much as possible from each schedule. The result is a schedule that is am/pm, provides for all six classes, but is a block schedule model, so that students will only attend three classes per day. The group felt that it was important for students to meet with all of their teachers to establish relationships and to ease the transition back to a normal classroom environment when that becomes possible. If the school was allowed to resume normal operations in the middle of the semester, the students would go right into all of their classes. If the school was forced to go to 100% online classes, then the school would divide the remaining days of the term in two and teach one block of three courses at a time for half of the remaining time and the second block of three the second half.

The high school school schedule has several options, including two with block schedules and a reduced course load. This would allow for students to fit in a 0 or a 7th period class and not be too overwhelmed with computer work. One option has two courses at a time for 6 weeks and the second has three courses at a time for 10 weeks. There is also a schedule variation similar to the middle school with six classes. One member of the team suggested a schedule for high school that has two full days at school and three days of distance learning. He is in the process of gathering more information from his peers and will report back to the group.

There was considerable discussion about what day to use as a full distance learning day for students and planning day for teachers. The original schedules have Friday as the designated day. There was discussion about the merits of either a Wednesday, to allow for a more thorough cleaning of the school midweek and a chance for teachers to review work and prepare. Monday was also discussed as a possible choice, so that when a holiday falls on a Monday, the students would not lose another day at school. Parents will be asked their preference with the next survey. The student reps were split between Monday and Wednesday but also flexible.

Special Education is working with the site principals to design an instructional plan that would work with all of the models presented so far. Both elementary and secondary are working on trying to get more time on campus for the special education students and English Learners.

There are also some logistical and cleaning issues to resolve with keeping some students for a longer day, including working out a lunch schedule and cleaning Chromebooks between students, if it is not possible to assign each student his own Chromebook while at school.

The goal of the group is to present recommended schedules to the larger group.