

School Schedule Committee Meeting

December 11, 2013

In attendance:

Bill Caron, Marg Cunningham, David Deitemyer, Mary Gricus, Cindy Kelly, Jennifer Klukas, Debby Lynch, Joanne Mitchell, Michelle Nevin, Cyndi Picciola, Susan Wulczyn

1. Volunteer for minutes- Susan Wulczyn
2. Results of research on Late Start/Early Dismissal- reactions from reviewing the research
 - a. Wondered how to handle half day kindergarten if there is a late start/early release
 - b. Sounds like Palos is getting around their attendance issues with parent activities/support
 - c. Early release situations appear to be half days predominantly; districts call this many different things, however.
 - d. Concern was voiced about a weekly commitment (especially for coaches if the time was after school); late start might be a solution
 - e. There will need to be a reminder system for parents, early enough be helpful
 - f. Districts take this seriously (one penalizes teachers for missing PD)
 - g. Potential parent reactions- we sometimes get complaints, whereas these other schools have not noted any; families are accustomed to this practice at the HS...
 - h. District 113A specific concerns as we go forward include:
 - i. We will need to look at cost factors- financial, instructional time and transportation
 - ii. These decisions are intimately tied to what happens over the next few months with staffing, location of 5th grade, etc.; we need to remember the bigger picture
 - iii. Michelle suggested we focus on things we can control within the current budget
 - iv. David had wanted this committee to focus on adding staff
 - v. Joanne feels we need even more time than when we were flush with time a few years ago
 - vi. Mary- would like this group to define its goals more specifically so we're all in alignment
3. Results of Research on other Options identified as High Interest by Committee
 - a. Additional half days and additional staffing
 - i. Mary and the principals looked at the calendar in an effort to determine if we could 'bank' more half days; suggested some sort of consistent structure (e.g. increase half days to six; make them regular; assure equity across grade levels- we would need to work on how to create an equitable amount of collaboration/personal plan time for all teachers within this structure).

- ii. The group will need to work on comparability across districts; Patti will start this and a smaller group will convene to assess whether and how this could work at our district. We'll include district-required activities such as SIP, collaborative plan and individual plan.
 - iii. Michelle asked if we might be setting ourselves up for more community concern about additional half days (businesses, parents, etc.). After further clarification, it's clear that change is hard and potentially inherent in any proposal
 - iv. Cindy asked about half days in the PM; thought it might be easier for parents, and would contribute to middle school students' sleep!
 - v. Marg and Michelle agreed that it may be more productive to have AM time for PD- whether a half day or a late start
- 4. Clarification of Outcome/s
 - a. For the next meeting, Patti will start the process of looking at comparables
 - b. Cindy reminded the committee that this is a process
 - c. Committee members will put out some vague feelers about what teachers need and would want for additional plan time and bring these to the next meeting
- 5. Next Meeting Date
 - a. Wednesday, January 22 from 5:30-7, before the Board meeting