

Council Rock High School

High School Scheduling Committee Report

High School Scheduling



COUNCIL ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introduction

- Approached Board about contracting with Dr. Michael Rettig for guidance
- Initially PLC and Intervention/Enrichment (I/E) Driven
- Committee formed and focus added to include:
 - More scheduling opportunities for students - choice
 - Less stress for students
 - I/E as part of the school day
 - Imbedded collaboration time
 - Current schedule has not undergone any significant change in approximately 4 decades

Dr. Rettig

- Founder of School Scheduling Associates, LLC
- 15 years as professor in College of Education and Director of the Center of School Leadership at James Madison University
- Served as a consultant on school scheduling in 43 states and working with over 1000 schools nationally
- Internationally has worked in Bermuda, Canada, Dubai, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and The United Kingdom
- Has conducted hundred of workshops and has authored or co-authored numerous articles and books on school scheduling and related topics

High School Scheduling

Committee

- Co-chairs – Al Funk, Andy Sanko, Barry Desko, Jason Traczykiewicz
- Committee Members

Susan McCarthy	North - Principal	Lynne Cariello	South – AP
Julie Eastburn	Math Coordinator	Renee Devlin	Science Coordinator
Andrea Houston-Lingman	English Coordinator	Dean Hentz	Soc. St. Coordinator
Lynn Young	WL Coordinator	Patty Eichert	Spec. Ed. Supervisor
Corey Axler	South – Music	Bill Gerhauser	South – CREA Pres.
Steve Janeski	North – H/PE	Chris Simon	South – Music
Lauren Persson	South – Counselor	Cristina Rabayda	North – Counselor
Mariann McKee	School Board	Sue Elliott	Asst. Supt.
Sharon Millstein	South – Parent	Ali Weinstein	North – Parent
Mackenzie Farley	North – Student	Mackenzie Blatz	South – Student
James Gabel	South - Student		

High School Scheduling

THE PROCESS

- How matters unfolded...
 - Mr. Desko updated the board that we would be forming a committee to further explore high school scheduling
 - Secured the services of nationally renowned scheduling expert Dr. Michael Rettig
 - Named chair people for the committee (Barry, Andy, Jason, and Al)
 - Selected a broad range of stakeholders for committee

THE PROCESS

Dates of meetings

- **July 9** – phone conference with Dr. Rettig – sharing of materials
- **July 31** – full committee mtg. w/ Dr. Rettig (all day)
- **August 14** – internal mtg. – chairs plus Susan McCarthy and Lynn Cariello
- **September 14** – internal mtg – Curriculum Coordinators and guidance reps
- **October 5** – internal mtg. with Coordinators and Dr. Elliott
- **October 19** – full committee mtg. (all Day)
- **December 5** – full committee mtg. w/ Dr. Rettig (all Day)
- **December 13** – internal committee mtg.
- **January 24** – internal committee mtg.
- **January 31** – full committee mtg. (all day)

Site Visits and Consultations

- **Prior to this year** – we had made visitations to Harriton, Wissahickon, and Upper Moreland.
- This year, from **October 19 – December 5**, the committee (typically 4-7 members) visited William Tennent, Easton, Souderton, Plymouth-Whitemarsh, and conferenced with Southern Lehigh.
- The last set of visitations were from **December 13 – January 31**, and focused on 4 x 4, 8 A/B, and Unit Lunch. These schools were Lower Merion, Cherry Hill East, and CB South.

Site Visits

- Meetings with administrators
- Meetings with master scheduler
- Meetings with teachers and support staff
- Meetings with student
- Unit lunch
- Collection of supporting documentation (bell schedules, program of studies, etc.)
- Comparable data (AP, Special Ed., Keystone Exams, etc.)
- Brain-based research
- Common guiding questions for each visit
- Reporting out on visits to committee

Current Schedule

6 Course, 5 Lunch, 9 Periods

Period 01	Course 1 7:33 - 8:29	Period 01	Course 1 7:33 - 8:29	Period 01	Course 1 7:33 - 8:29	Period 01	Course 1 7:33 - 8:29	Period 01	Course 1 7:33 - 8:29
	Homeroom 8:29 - 8:42		Homeroom 8:29 - 8:42		Homeroom 8:29 - 8:42		Homeroom 8:29 - 8:42		Homeroom 8:29 - 8:42
Period 02	Course 2 8:47 - 9:43	Period 02	Course 2 8:47 - 9:43	Period 02	Course 2 8:47 - 9:43	Period 02	Course 2 8:47 - 9:43	Period 02	Course 2 8:47 - 9:43
Period 03	Course 3 9:48 - 10:44	Period 03	Course 3 9:48 - 10:44	Period 03	Course 3 9:48 - 10:44	Period 03	Course 3 9:48 - 10:44	Period 03	Course 3 9:48 - 10:44
Period 04	Lunch 10:49 - 11:18	Period 04	Course 4 10:49 - 11:18	Period 04	Course 4 10:49 - 11:44	Period 04	Course 4 10:49 - 11:44	Period 04	Course 4 10:49 - 11:44
Period 05	Course 4 10:49 - 11:18	Period 05	Lunch 11:18 - 11:44	Period 05		Course 4 10:49 - 11:44		Period 05	
Period 06		Period 06	Course 4 11:49 - 12:15	Period 06	Lunch 11:49 - 12:15	Period 06	Course 5 11:49 - 12:15	Period 06	Course 5 11:49 - 12:46
Period 07	Course 5 12:20 - 1:14	Period 07	Course 5 12:20 - 1:14	Period 07	Course 5 12:20 - 1:14	Period 07	Lunch 12:20 - 12:46	Period 07	
Period 08		Period 08		Period 08		Period 08	Course 5 12:51 - 1:14	Period 08	Lunch 12:51 - 1:14
Period 09	Course 6 1:19 - 2:15	Period 09	Course 6 1:19 - 2:15	Period 09	Course 6 1:19 - 2:15	Period 09	Course 6 1:19 - 2:15	Period 09	Course 6 1:19 - 2:15

High School Scheduling

Recommended Schedule 8 AB Block with Lunch and Learn (Unit Lunch)

	Day A		Day B
Period 01	Course 1 7:30 - 8:52	Period 01	Course 2 7:30 - 8:52
Period 02	Course 3 8:56 - 10:18	Period 02	Course 4 8:56 - 10:18
	Lunch And Learn 10:22 - 11:22		Lunch And Learn 10:22 - 11:22
Period 03	Course 5 11:26 - 12:48	Period 03	Course 6 11:26 - 12:48
Period 04	Course 7 12:52 - 2:14	Period 04	Course 8 12:52 - 2:14

High School Scheduling

Unit Lunch (Rock Block?)

➤ 60+ minutes for students

Opportunity for:

- Lunch
- Intervention/Remediation
- Enrichment
- Make-ups
- Clubs/Activities
- Group collaboration
- Intramurals
- Community building
- Assemblies / guest speakers

➤ 60+ minutes for staff

- Lunch (30 minutes)
- Student support (30 minutes)

Schedule Change Comparisons

- Student Day
 - More class options
 - Current – 6 periods over 4 years = 24 credit opportunities
 - Proposed – 8 periods over 4 years = 32 credit opportunities
 - Classes per Day
 - Current – 6
 - Proposed – 4
 - Class length
 - Current – 55 minutes
 - Proposed – 82 – 86 minutes
 - Instructional time
 - Current – 9,900 minutes/FY course
 - Proposed – 7,560 minutes/FY course
 - Lunches
 - Current – 5 lunches of 26 minutes
 - Proposed – Unit lunch of 60+ minutes (lunch and I/E or other opportunities)

Schedule Change Comparisons

- I/E opportunities during student day
 - Current – none (after student day – clinic)
 - Proposed – imbedded daily during Unit Lunch
- Fewer transitions
 - Current – 6
 - Proposed – 4
- Teacher annual caseload
 - Current – 5 classes with average class size of 25 = 125 total students
 - Proposed – 6 classes with average class size of 25 = 150 total students
- Teacher daily caseload
 - Current – 5 classes with average class size of 25 = 125 total students
 - Proposed – 3 classes with average class size of 25 = 75 total students

Schedule Change Comparisons

- A student perspective
 - More opportunities
 - Student stress
 - More like college
 - Only preparing for 4 classes / day
 - Less subject area HW / night
 - Early dismissals for teams, clubs, etc.
 - Academic supports / opportunities during school day
 - Brain breaks
 - Possible study hall, etc.
- A parent perspective
 - Choice
 - Student stress
 - Homework & preparing for class
 - Social element – brain break

Other Considerations

- Modeling the schedule through Student Information System
- The board would have to decide on new credit/graduation requirements – 23/24 now versus ?/32
- Consideration on how to “phase-in” – different grad requirements for different classes
- AP course opportunities
- Curriculum work through Curriculum Coordinators – review of current courses, new electives, etc.
- Professional development to address increased length of class
- The unit lunch would require much consideration – communication with Chartwell’s, physical infrastructure challenges, etc.
- Potential CREA/CRESPA ramifications

Cost Analysis

- Current high school staffing is very efficient (teachers teach 5 of 6 periods) – once a very common high school schedule, now rarely found
- 8 A/B schedule shifts staffing from 83% efficiency (5 of 6) to 75% efficiency (teachers teach 6 of 8)
- Difficult to know at this point the actual staffing implications of this change
- Estimated Staffing Cost Analysis
 - Worst Case Scenario
 - Additional 21 teachers – \$2.3 million – \$3.5 million (includes all staffing costs – salary, benefits, pension, etc.)
 - Likely
 - Additional 13 teachers - \$1.4 million - \$2.1 million (includes all staffing costs – salary, benefits, pension, etc.)

Budgetary Implications

- Using the worst case staffing scenario (additional 21 teachers) and including other costs (curriculum development, textbooks, summer workshops, etc.)
 - 1.6% tax increase (1.94 millage impact)
- Using the likely staffing scenario (additional 13 teachers) and including other costs (curriculum development, textbooks, summer workshops, etc.)
 - 1% tax increase (1.24 millage impact)
- Both budget scenarios use the lower salary range from the staffing costs

Next Steps

- With approval from Board to continue this work:
 - 1) Develop Sub-Committees to detail the schedule
 - Core Courses
 - Electives
 - Special Education
 - MBIT
 - 2) Build the Unit Lunch and develop possible alternative schedule (Plan B)
 - 3) Identify courses necessary for an 8 A/B schedule
 - 4) Finalize staffing implications
 - 5) Plan for implementation – 2020-21 or 2021-22 school year
 - 6) Build a communication plan – staff, students, parents, community

Questions/Comments/Discussion

High School Scheduling



COUNCIL ROCK
SCHOOL DISTRICT