

4-Day Week Communication & Outreach Summary

Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools – Handout for Community Forum Attendees

What We've Done So Far

Community Engagement & Events

- 2 Public Community Forums (recorded and posted online)
- 3 Board Presentations: October, November, December 2024
- Strategic Planning Meeting with teachers, parents, and community reps
- Teacher-led testimony at board meetings
- Parent testimony in support of and opposed to the 4-day week

Surveys & Feedback

- January 2025 District-Wide Survey
- Staff feedback collected via small-group meetings and email
- Anonymous paper-ballot revote offered to staff groups in Spring 2025
- LES and RGS phone family survey of services (childcare & meals) via phone calls
- A second upcoming community survey (email format)

Communication Tools

- 4-Day Week webpage on district site (live updates, schedules, FAQs)
 - Flyers and newsletters emailed to school families
 - Print-ready fact sheets available on district website
 - Outreach flyers posted throughout communities
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At the Strategic Planning meeting participants were asked to list any concerns or reasons against the 4-day schedule they have heard about. Here is the list:

Instructional/Academic

- How does this benefit my child?
- Thursday will become the new Friday
- Loss of learning time

- How will this affect sports?
- What are proposed school year calendars?
- Day is too long
- Teachers want to work less
- Teachers not using time wisely
- Not preparing for real world
- What is the benefit to the staff?
- Proof of teacher hours worked

Social/Emotional

- Emotional wellbeing for kids with rough home lives; CPS students; This is not good for students who need the safe haven school provides some students
- Kids will run wild on Friday
- Actual loss of family time if Friday is all enrichment
- Fridays will become too enriched with mandatory CTE meetings - a "5th" day for some; parents feel if there are Friday activities their kid have to participate = even more time
- Students won't have as much time with friends
- Non instructional time - recess, lunch, social skills building
- What are Friday Connection Options?

Logistics (Childcare/Food & Transportation)

- Bus Routes/schedules; Kids on buses for a longer time
- Transportation for Sports on Friday; Sports schedules - multiple towns
- Hours - sports, FFA, buses
- Childcare
- Food/Free Meals

Trust/Process

- Teachers don't want to teach
- Staff just wants more time off
- The data isn't real
- Clear calendar communication - three options floating around?
- Lack of trust between teachers, board & community
- Wasn't clear or transparent & Lind is forcing this on Ritzville
- Stakeholder support? - county, hospital & city
- Impacts on local business?
- Parents aren't informed, it's all hearsay
- Possible loss of hours/wages

After reviewing the lists, participants discussed the concerns in table groups after which table leaders were asked to share out, with the room, any clarifying or expansive thoughts.

Participants were next asked to share what they believed or had heard about why a super-majority of school staff are supporting the 4-day schedule.

Main Headlines/Why?

- Increases in instructional time.
- Increased rigor with room to breathe.
- Better building culture
- Increasing student and staff attendance; mentally worn out, decrease absences for all; improved attendance - kids out on Fri playing sports - catching up
- Less school missed for sports or extracurricular activities having Fridays available.
- Helps student attendance & behavior
- It's better for kids; Doing it better.
- With the right structure it has shown to improve learning

- More instructional time for our future
- Growth of school; Data shows in rural districts it works for students and staff
- Addresses how exhausted the kids are on Monday
- Fridays - crying kids
- Love having kids at home for family time; support for families in our communities: family time
- More Time; flexibility
- Teacher retention; Better staff; Teacher burnout
- Focus on dedicated time for teacher/instructional improvement
- Professional Development time
- Will reduce weekend planning time for staff; Staff are there at 7:30am and there until 4 or 4:30pm now. Already spending the extra hours, sometimes even on weekends. Having a Friday to do this work would at least free up their weekend.
- Financial savings - How? (Break it down) develop spreadsheet; Less budget constraints

***We believe we've answered or addressed many of the relevant questions and concerns. What do you think we may have missed or still need to consider?**