

**HS Schedule Ad hoc Committee 2025**  
**November 4, 2025**  
**3:30-5 p.m.**

**Attendees**

Mike Copland, Bethany Barrett, Sonia Cole, Linda Foster, Ben Goodwin, Samantha Haley, Aramis Johnson, Sonya Morrison, Kristin O'Malley, Scott Smartt, Dana Smith, Ronni Weston, Ari Feeney, Heather Steele, Meghan Dunham, Laurel Peak, Kathryn Weilage, Matt Whitten, Marty Atkins, Bennett Vis, Kay Reilly

**Welcome Back**

Mike Copland opened the meeting, welcomed everyone back and provided an overview of today's agenda.

**Summary**

Mike summarized the process to date and next steps.

Mike Copland reviewed the committee charter and reminded the group of the following:

- the charge to review the utility of the current high school schedule and consider alternatives that may produce cost savings.
- If the committee does not find a satisfactory alternative, the district's default position is to continue with the current schedule.
- The decision making process will be consensus and input/feedback from other stakeholders.
- The committee is a recommending body and will submit a recommendation to the superintendent, supported by written rationale.
- Given what we know, knowing it is incomplete information, today's meeting will inform decisions and a recommendation, which the group will review at the final meeting on Nov. 25.

**Instructional Hours/1080 Issue**

The Program of Basic Education requires that districts meet one of the following instructional hour minimums for Grades 1-12:

1. Districtwide average of 1080 instructional hours for students enrolled in grades 9-12 **and** a districtwide annual average of 1,000 instructional hours for students enrolled in grades 1-8.  
**a. or**
2. A district wide annual average of 1,027 instructional hour requirement for grades 1-12.

Currently, the district is in compliance using the first option. Committee members looked at the alternate schedules to determine if/how they meet the required instructional hours for the state. The group noted that all alternate schedules allow for compliance with instructional hours under option two. Some do not meet compliance under option 1.

The group also reviewed a comparison of the number of days of instruction under each alternate schedule under consideration.

## Consensus Voting

“If we have to implement a new high school to help address budget challenges, is there a consensus first choice we would recommend?”

Committee members used colored dots for a consensus exercise called “value voting.”

### Value Vote #1: 4x8 vs. Any other alternative schedule

- ❖ **Keep** the default 4x8 HS schedule, recognizing that if the schedule does not change, other budget solutions will need to be identified to help solve financial deficits.
- ❖ **Implement** one of the other schedule options that saves dollars through the reduction of FTE.

### Value Vote #2 – Prioritizing among the alternatives to the 4x8

- ❖ First choice (*one green dot*) “Best choice given what I know.”
- ❖ Second choice(s) (*two yellow dots*) “Not my favorite, but I could live with it.”

#### **3x5 Trimester**

**7 period;** 2 block days per week

**7 period;** 4 block days per week

**6 period**

The value voting exercises did not result in a clear consensus.

## Committee Reflections “What’s your why?”

The group reflected regarding the two value vote exercises and were invited to share their thoughts behind their vote.

### Value Vote #1

- Those who spoke regarding their choice to **keep the current schedule** shared reasons including:
  - Time to make a complex change and wish not to rush the process, if happening for 2026-27.
  - Staff concerns and student input regarding planning time and elective options.
- Those who spoke regarding their vote to **change to another schedule** shared reasons including:
  - Concerns over large class sizes.
  - Long-term financial implications and need to plan ahead.
  - Reduce executive functioning load on students by having fewer classes per term.

### Value Vote #2

#### **3x5 Trimester**

- Positives shared about the 3x5 trimester schedule **included:**
  - Maintains daily planning time
  - Length of class period is similar to current schedule and works generally well for students.

- Potentially cuts the least number of class choices for students (16 to 15 in a year)
  - Works best for Options High School and would keep all high schools on the same schedule most efficiently.
- **Concern** with the 3x5 trimester schedule included:
    - Given the work entailed in changing to trimesters, can we maintain funding for this schedule? It has the least amount of savings.

**7 period; 2 block**

**7 period; 4 block**

- Those who shared about their choice to vote either green or yellow for the 7 period options shared thoughts including:
  - For some, support for 7-period schedule is a vote against the 3x5 trimester.
  - Concerns about getting the 3x5 trimester schedule to work with all the factors.
  - 6 period schedule cuts too many staff.
  - The 7 period schedule provides options that make more sense to most people, left with 7 period options to make work.

**6 period:**

- Positives:
  - Some teacher input supports 6 period schedule.
  - Some may choose 6 period schedule over 3x5 trimester schedule because of familiarity with 6 period and unfamiliarity with trimester.
  - Support for teaching 5 of 6 instead of 6 of 7. This schedule allows students to go deeper in content; teachers see students four days a week. As a core content teacher, it would be a first choice.
- Concerns: deep cuts for electives, possibly to whole programs, especially without the option of running a zero hour.

**Wonders: Mike invited the group to share other concerns or questions:**

These included:

- Enrollment projections and implications for high school enrollment in the future.
- Implications for 504 plans that include accommodations for student breaks. If classes are shorter, breaks could affect learning more.

**Next steps:**

Mike will take the lead on a draft recommendation for review at our final meeting on November 25. Committee members will be contacted for feedback, if needed, as the draft takes shape.

Mike thanked the committee members for their time and commitment to engage in difficult conversations and for all the hard work so far. The meeting closed at 5 p.m.

Next meeting: 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25