



High School Bell Schedule Work Group 2026

3:30-5 p.m., January 29, 2026

District Office Room 202

Meeting Notes

Present:

Sam Haley, Dana Smith, Joe Wooding, Bethany Barrett, Katie Jones, Aimee Bachmeier, Ronnie Weston, Elizabeth Burrus, Ben Goodwin, Mike Copland, Kate Manthey, Heather Steele, Monica Contreras, Matt Whitten, Marty Atkins, Bennet Vis, Angie Desler, Steve Settem, Ari Feeney, Jason Bergman, Laurel Peak, Brett Latham, Katie Jones, Nicole Chang, Dawn Oehlerich

Welcome

Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland opened the meeting and shared the agenda and tasks.

Continued Discussion of Seven Period Schedule Options

The group engaged in large group discussions on a variety of sample/model schedules.

- a. Any additional thoughts/feedback/questions regarding various schedules?
 - i. CCCCC (aka “straight seven”)
 - 1. Support included:
 - a. May be best schedule for opportunity to share staff with OHS
 - b. seeing students every day
 - 2. Cautions included:
 - a. Concern for 7 classes a day with heavy academic load
 - b. Length of class
 - c. Ability to fit in advisory work
 - ii. CXYZC (aka “rotating blocks”).
 - 1. Support included:
 - a. See all students 5x week.

2. Cautions included:
 - a. Complexities of preps and lesson order for teachers.
 - b. Complexities of the rotating schedule being difficult for all to mentally manage, both kids and adults.
 - c. Not a simple schedule—there would be four different schedules in five days. The community feedback emphasized trying to simplify the number of bell schedules in a given week.
 - d. Shared staff or part time staff would be difficult.
 - e. Difficult for subs / frontline definitions of half and full day.
- iii. CABAB (aka “four block”)
 1. Support included:
 - a. Most similar to current schedule
 - b. More block days which may work well in some curricular areas
 2. Cautions included:
 - a. With teaching six of seven, only three planning periods/week
 - b. See each class three times per week.

Mike shared that after the first meeting, some version of CCABC and CXYZC seemed to be the front runner schedules. Mike asked the group to dig into different approaches to CCABC and CXYZC. At tables, groups discussed a variety of model schedules created by group member Bennet Vis. Mike thanked Bennet for the work he put in on this document.

The groups discussed at tables, roughly organized by school community. There was time for some groups to share their general thoughts with additional feedback and conversation in an unstructured manner.

CCABC discussion included:

- Several table groups identified the CCABC with 35 minute advisory schedule as favorite.
- Some groups brought up lunch schedules, whether one lunch or two. Two lunches requires block periods to be split. Squaticum noted that has space constraints and one lunch is difficult to manage. Mike noted that food services has general concerns about only one lunch as a regular practice and this may not be feasible.
- Staff members advocated for advisories on the block days, noting this would also meet simplicity goal: only 2 bell schedules to memorize
- Options representatives felt that the CCABC options would help with shared programs and staff.

CXYZC

- Squalicum was the only school that had run a “rotating block” schedule similar to CXYZC (but with six, not seven classes). Staff who had taught on that schedule shared reflections on its pros and cons, including lesson plan/scope and sequence potential challenges.
 - o If a teacher teaches multiple sections of a specific course, they may get a “reverse” sequence during the rotation of lessons.
 - o In some curricular areas, this might be a challenge due to lab setup, etc.
- Some noted that the rotating blocks with 7 classes mean the “blocks” may not be long enough for long-form curricular activities like labs, guest speakers, presentations, plays, etc.
- A group member reflected that the challenges with the CXYZC schedule seem to be more complex than the challenges with the other schedules.
- Four schedules to learn/manage per week.
- Some shared student feedback that they liked the estimated length of the longer “block” classes.

Other topics touched on during the conversations included:

- Right now, criticism of 4x8 is that class periods are too long and teachers do not see students often enough. Let’s prioritize “right sizing” class periods and seeing students more often than currently (2 or 3x a week).
- There is no conclusive research that any one schedule is better or worse for students. The research done by group members indicates that multiple factors inform schedule success including preparedness of staff to teach on that schedule.
- Conversation about use of early dismissal time. If it is intended to recoup planning time it should not become building- or collaboration-directed. Mike and Kate indicated this would be a point of bargaining with the BEA.
- A group member asked if high school could consider a late arrival vs. an early dismissal. Mike indicated this would likely not work unless the change was made districtwide due to transportation and staffing issues.
- There was a suggestion to build in an additional minute to 2nd period for morning announcements.
- Group members expressed concerns about instructional practices and possibility of more lecture-based classes on shorter periods.

The group also interspersed questions and discussion regarding advisory classes:

- One group member suggested that advisory tasks be incorporated throughout course time and that there not be a dedicated advisory class.
- After reviewing possible seven-period schedules that have an advisory time, the group consensus was that advisory fits better on block days than on seven-period (C) days.
- Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Marty Atkins mentioned that our primary goal is to land what the week looks like and then to decide regarding advisory.

- Another group member reminded everyone that the High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) is grade-specific, and it is better to have advisories by grade so teachers can support students with grade-level HSBP activities and engagement with SchoolLinks to meet state requirements.
- The group had questions about continuing support programs/courses such as AVID and Academic Workshop on the seven-period schedule.

Throughout the meeting, Mike periodically asked the group to indicate consensus via a show of hands.

Consensus items from this meeting:

1. Remove the CCCCC “straight seven,” CABAB “four blocks” and CXYZC “rotating blocks” schedules from conversation. The group will focus on landing a CCABC “two block” schedule over the next four meetings.
2. Do not have advisory classes on seven period days.

Mike closed the meeting and previewed the next meeting on Tuesday the 3rd. He shared that he anticipates having information and numbers that will frame what is doable for transportation and food services. This data will help the group land the best schedule/model given the system’s constraints.

Topics for next meeting:

- Continue with finalizing recommendation for bell schedule, advisory, and early dismissal.
- Options HS schedule interface with SHS, BHS, SQHS

Next meeting: 3:30-5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, District Office