EVMS
4 Day School Week

Middle School Level Considerations

AGENDA

01 PROS

02 CONS

03 STAFF CONCERNS & SOLUTIONS

04 DATA FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

05 POLL DATA

06 FINAL NOTES

01 PROS

TEACHERS

- More energy for positive student interactions
- Higher retention/recruitment rates, especially for young teachers
- Coaches would not miss for events, therefore not needing substitutes
- Appointments can be scheduled for Fridays
- Enrichment program opportunities for extra pay
- More time with families
- 7 period day

STUDENTS

- 7 period day
  - Consistency
  - Information retention
  - Improved assignment completion and test scores
- Better attendance
  - Athletes and non-athletes
  - Appointments
- Extracurricular opportunities
  - Sports
  - Clubs
  - Hobbies
- Improved behavior
- More energy for positive school interactions

FAMILIES

- Appointments can be scheduled for Fridays
  - Improved attendance
- Traveling benefits
  - Cost
  - Better attendance
- Quality time with family
- Better consistency in classes will help with the connection home for missing assignments, upcoming tests, etc.
- Prep everyday will allow teachers to have better communication home as well

02 CONS

TEACHERS

- Longer days
  - We would get a prep every day
  - The difference is fairly negligible, other districts go about 8-4 (currently 8:07-3:14)
- Adjusting plans
  - We moved to the 45 minutes twice a day this year, can that to be each day instead of on one day
- Potential meetings on the extra day
  - Could schedule a once a month Friday for meetings, all the others off

STUDENTS

- Longer days
  - The 7 period day provides for more passing periods
- Food
  - Food pantry for donations
  - Food options during Friday optional care/tutoring
  - Take home meals on Thursdays after school
- Missing more classes if absent
  - We do 45 minutes twice, same amount of material, just a greater variety

FAMILIES

- Childcare on Fridays
  - Optional Tiger care as proposed by High School
- Later extracurriculars during the week
  - Already run extracurriculars late or early before school, the shift will only be by about half an hour
- Less family time on week nights
  - Change will only be by about half an hour

03 STAFF CONCERNS & SOLUTIONS

- Increased behaviors from longer day
  - 7 period day eliminates this issue, classes would actually not change in length too much
- Food insecurity*
- Forgetting information over the longer weekend/academic regression
  - Block schedule already makes a 3 day gap for classes
  - Arguably the block schedule would cause more academic regression as there is less repetition
- Calendar change
  - Something our committee still needs to develop, should be within a few days of the current schedule
- Parent-Teacher conferences
  - Could be done on Fridays or have a shortened schedule those days
- Different schedule than Helena Schools
- Later extracurricular activities*
- Unsafe homes or need for childcare
  - Tiger care could help those kids on Fridays
- When will meetings be that are currently before/after school
  - Could schedule one Friday a month for them or could shorten them during the week
- Length of day*
- Effect on pay - Need Dan's input on this one, we believe the time is made up by the longer days

04 OTHER DISTRICTS

GENERAL RESEARCH

- Neutral points (no statistically significant change)
  - Student achievement
  - Attendance
  - Teacher retention
- Negative points
  - Childcare on Fridays
- Positive points
  - Improved community morale and family satisfaction

*Based on articles from rural districts in Colorado, Iowa, and Missouri

OUR AREA

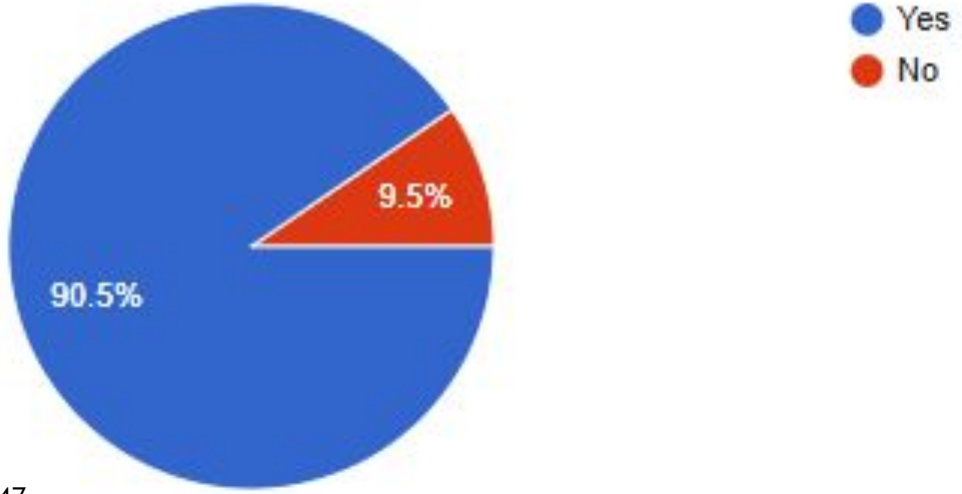
- Higher retention rates and less emergency hires (
- Less teacher burnout (Roberts and Laurel outside of Billings)
- Students who are very involved appreciate the extra “catch up” day (Roberts)
- Teachers and administrators interviewed noted no noticeable difference in academic performance
- Higher graduation rates across the schools on 4 days (OPI)
- Support/intervention half day on Friday with transportation and food provided (Havre)
- Improved GPA (Havre)

*Survey results from across the state addressed in this article

05 POLL DATA

Would you like to switch to a 4-day school week next year?

21 responses



Sent to the daily staff email chain, 47 teachers, paras, and support staff

06 FINAL NOTES

- Overall, we know all Districts that have previously made this change have not switched back.
- Both options present their own challenges, some we are just more familiar with.
- No matter what is decided, people will be unhappy and have strong opinions.

Thank you so much for allowing us to weigh our options and have input in this huge decision for the District! We so appreciate it!