



HS Schedule Work Group 2026

3:30-5 p.m., February 12, 2026
Bellingham High School library

Notes

Present

Mike Copland, Ben Goodwin, Joe Wooding, Ronni Weston, Sam Haley, Brett Latham, Jason Bergman, Laurel Peak, Angie Desler, Bennet Vis, Dana Smith, Monica Contreras, Katie Jones, Bethany Barrett, Nicole Chang, Nick Hayes, Sonia Cole, Steve Settum, Dawn Oehlerich

Welcome

Mike welcomed the group and thanked them for their work these past weeks.

Final Review of Schedule Recommendation

- a. Review of the model with lunches, early dismissal
- b. Gather any final feedback

Mike asked for feedback and questions from the group, sharing this was the last scheduled time to work out questions before the group finalizes the recommended schedule.

Topics included:

- Passing time:
 - o The draft includes a longer passing time before lunch on non-block days. Mike, Kurt Gazow and Ben's research indicate this will still meet seat time and other requirements for schedules.
 - o Transition and passing time for the block classes split by lunch. The current draft includes passing time back from lunch built into the block day period. Non-split classes are 5 minutes longer so the split blocks get the full 75 instructional minutes and passing.
- Advisory length and placement:
 - o General feedback is that the 35 min. advisory may hit a sweet spot for ability to complete HSBP and homework, etc.
 - o A request was shared to place advisory at the end of the day to balance the block days. Many in the group noted that end of the day is not the best placement for student success and participation.

- Special schedules (assemblies): A group member wondered if A days could be moved to Fridays for assemblies (etc.), yielding a week that is CCCBA instead of CCABC? There was a general discussion of keeping consistency of block days with possible exceptions of “weird weeks” (like the week before Thanksgiving, Treaty Day, Semester break). The group agreed that a master CCABC schedule is needed. Communications and DTL will work together to create CCABC master schedule for the year, similar to current master A/B schedule. This would include:
 - o Consistent placement of block days to support planning.
 - o Plan for “weird weeks” like the week before Thanksgiving, week of floating holidays like Treaty Day, week of semester break.
 - o Protocol for snow day or other closure (would we skip that day and resume master, reschedule, etc.? Would a closure on a block day be treated differently than a closure on a C day?)
 - o It was noted this needs to be completed before the publication of the calendar.
- Announcements: A group member wondered if 1-2 minutes could be built in for announcements on the C days. General discussion of announcement placement and utility, with no consensus reached.
- Options feedback: Options staff reflected on some of the challenges with shared students and staff. None are insurmountable but might require some flexibility regarding lunch access and magnet programs.
- Feasibility of schedule for part-time and shared-level staff: There will be some adjustments and specific scenarios to consider; for example, planning time on block days for part-time staff, or ability to travel to elementary or middle schools. Mike shared he thinks the scenarios are feasible and “figure-out-able.”
- Cert subs issue: There was general discussion of how Frontline and sub hours would work and where the sub “half day” starts and stops.
- Instructional minutes: Will TSE have enough instructional minutes to meet seat-time requirements? Mike said yes.
- Lunch: The group discussed logistics around lunch and advisory schedules, particularly on block days. Topics included:
 - o Thursday split lunch class has a short period at the end of the day. There may be some logistical issues with that on B days before the early dismissal.
 - o Wednesday split lunch class has a similar challenge.
 - o General discussion of prioritizing students’ ability to make good choices and be in class.
 - o Ideas discussed included: One lunch on block days only, lunch right before dismissal on B days, serving fast meals on B days. One lunch does not work logistically at Squalicum primarily due to space constraints. Suggestion was made to help Squalicum with tables, etc., to assist with 1 lunch. Mike shared that Food Services staffing is a challenge for one lunch days.
 - o Discussion regarding placement of lunches and particularly split periods on block days. made to have 1 lunch on block days and 2 lunches on C days. Further discussion on that point is needed between schools and food

services. Lunches on block days need to be landed. Consensus is for one lunch on block days.

- A group member suggested considering planning time for coaches and early dismissals for athletes when building the master schedule due to possibilities for end-of-day absences on C days. 7th period will be more affected than other classes.

Mike closed the general conversation and we confirmed consensus items with the group, including items that have consensus here but require further discussion regarding feasibility for other parts of the district (e.g. Food Services).

Consensus items

- Advisory: 35 minute, once-a-week advisory is judged sufficient time for HSBP and other uses of advisory.
- Lunches: One lunch is preferred for block days (pending conversations with and approval by Food Services); Squalicum would need support for this due to campus-specific nuances with supervision and facilities, e.g., space constraints, tables, Forum temp walls). The group agreed that supporting Squalicum would be important to everyone.
- Master CCABC schedule with consistent block day placement: A and B days will stay consistent on Wednesday and Thursday. Special schedules may be used on C days for assemblies or other events. There will be a common CCABC calendar developed (similar to current A/B calendar) that also accounts for weeks with unusual features such as a floating holiday.
- Half-day Cert Subs: Finance and H.R. will need to look at timing and language around half day cert subs (both a.m. and p.m.) due to the current 3.75-hour limit. The “half day” is changing.

Next Steps

- The recommendation will be drafted, reviewed, finalized and sent to Dr. Baker.
- Principals will continue to discuss some logistical items both as a team and for their specific campuses.
- Mike plans to ask BEA to call a vote as soon as possible after the recommendation is approved.
- A group member asked if teachers could have some good visual aids of what the recommended bell schedule would look like to help with review and voting process. Communications will work on this.