High School Schedule Task Force Meeting Summary

Meeting date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Overview

The High School Schedule Task Force met to compare the two highest-rated high school schedule models, Model 1 (Traditional) and Model 4 (A/B Block), and to review their projected financial impact. Both models will be presented to the community at a public hearing on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, and through an online community survey. No final decision has been made.

Purpose and Charge

The Board of Trustees charged the task force with evaluating high school schedule models against four measures: maximizing learning time, ensuring equitable access, supporting staff well-being, and reducing spending.
The task force is a recommending body. It will share its recommendation with the Executive Cabinet, which holds final decision authority.

Operating Norms

Members reviewed the norms that apply to all district optimization task forces. Members are asked to wait at least 48 hours after each meeting before posting about it on social media, so the district can prepare and post meeting materials. All task force materials are posted on the district's optimization website.

Meeting Schedule and Public Engagement

- **Public hearing:** Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the district administration building. Community members may sign up to speak. Task force members will attend to listen to public comments.
- **Community survey:** The district plans to open an online survey on Friday, October 23, 2026. It will remain open for about two weeks and will include a description of both models.
- **Final task force meeting:** Tuesday, November 10, 2026, if needed, to review survey results before the task force completes its recommendation to the Executive Cabinet.

The Two Models Under Consideration

Both models change the high school teaching load from six of eight class periods to seven of eight. Model 4 ranked highest on three of the four measures: learning time, equitable access, and reducing spending. Model 1 ranked highest on staff well-being.

	Model 1: Traditional Schedule	Model 4: A/B Block Schedule
Structure	Eight class periods every day	90-minute class periods on alternating A and B days, as high schools use today
Class length	Estimated 48 to 53 minutes	90 minutes
Teacher conference period	Every day, shorter in length	Every other day, 90 minutes
Strengths	Students see each teacher daily; teachers have a planning period every day	Keeps the schedule students know today; strongest on learning time and access to courses, including CTE
Challenges	Shorter class periods; less time for teacher team planning; passing time between classes at large campuses	Teachers plan every other day; full teaching days with a 30-minute lunch; risk of staff burnout

Financial Impact

Either model is projected to reduce annual staffing costs by about $2.475 million across the four high schools. The projection assumes an average cost of $75,000 per teaching position and is based on current enrollment and class sizes.

High School	Projected Annual Savings
Hendrickson High School	$750,000
Pflugerville High School	$675,000
Connally High School	$600,000
Weiss High School	$450,000
Total	**$2,475,000**

Projected savings differ by campus because current class sizes differ. Larger campuses already operate closer to typical high school class sizes. Some campuses intentionally keep smaller classes to provide additional student support.

These projections do not change athletics, fine arts, or CTE staffing. They also exclude 12 teaching positions, about three per high school, that will move to the district's CTE Center for the 2027-2028 school year. Those positions remain in the district and do not count as savings.

Considerations

The projected savings fall short of the Board's minimum target of $3 million. The task force's role is to recommend a schedule model. Identifying additional savings is the responsibility of district administration.

After a model is selected and approved by the Executive Cabinet, the Office of School Leadership, Human Resources, Athletics, Fine Arts, and CTE will work together to identify additional savings consistently across all four high schools. That work will include a review of

the more than 100 courses that currently meet for two class periods. District staff stated there is no intent to cut CTE programs.

In small-group discussion, members shared strengths and concerns for each model. Topics included:

- Teacher workload, planning time, and well-being
- The number of classes students manage each day
- Time for hands-on work, labs, and student intervention
- Scheduling for athletics, fine arts, and dual credit courses
- Time for teacher teams to plan together
- Students' familiarity with and preference for the current block schedule

Members also suggested exploring a hybrid schedule that combines traditional and block days within a week. District staff noted that this would be considered by administration after a model is selected, since all four high schools would need to align.

Human Resources shared that the district is expanding wellness support for employees, including no-cost counseling visits and an employee health clinic.

Next Steps

- The district will finalize and open the community survey.
- The task force will present Model 1 and Model 4 at the public hearing on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.
- The task force will review survey results and determine whether to meet on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, before finalizing its recommendation to the Executive Cabinet.