

3x5 IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Thurs., Oct. 3, 2013

Parr Room

8:00-9:00

Report

Committee members present

Barb Bellamy
Shelley Berman
Randy Bernstein
Sara Cramer
Jennifer Geller
Casandra Kamens
Jon Lauch

Cheryl Linder
Laurie Moses
Simone Sangster
Peter Tromba
Carmen Urbina
Cydney Vandercar

Purpose of the committee

Laurie Moses welcomed the committee and reviewed the purpose of the committee as outlined on the committee's description page. Laurie also reviewed the 3x5 Implementation & Communication Plan, which includes not only the Steering Committee but also the 3x5 Implementation Team and the Teacher Instructional Advisory. The Implementation Team will be addressing specific issues that surface at the sites as the implementation proceeds; these would include such matters as dealing with scheduling issues, issues related serving distinct student groups (e.g., ELL, TAG, etc.).

Laurie said that the implementation of the 3x5 will be a standing agenda item for JCAC, a periodic agenda item for the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee, and a standing agenda item at high school principals meetings.

In reviewing the Communication Plan, the committee acknowledged that the public forums about the 3x5 to be held from time to time at each high school will serve not only as a place to report on its implementation but also as a place where members of the school community can ask questions and share concerns.

Carmen Urbina asked where in the Implementation Plan the needs of ELL students would be considered and addressed. Laurie clarified that this would be at the Implementation Team meetings. Randy Bernstein mentioned that at South Eugene HS, ELL students are receiving more instructional time on the 3x5 than they received on the school's previous schedule.

Laurie also drew the committee's attention to two additional documents:

High School Common Schedule: Advantages to the 3x5 Schedule outlines goals and reasons for the district's selecting the 3x5 schedule.

4J High Schools: Are we a system or are we islands? summarizes the reasons high school principals identified for the district to move to a common schedule.

3x5 Implementation Team

Cassandra Kamens reported that the Implementation Team has met. It includes representation from each high school. Representation from IHS is also being arranged for.

The following issues have been brought to the Team's attention:

Scheduling

- There are pockets of "missing classes" at various times at all schools.
- Families of grade 10 students, having experienced a full schedule when their student was in grade 9, are now expecting a full schedule in grade 10.
- Scheduling for IHS continues to be a concern.

Class Size

- Class size is a concern, partially because the belief was that the 3x5 would reduce class size. The fact is that over-enrollments are keeping class size larger. Also contributing to this is the effort to fully schedule students, something that leads to larger numbers in classes.
- Shelley commented that this is a significant budget issue and that it is important to inform the budget committee of this. In general, he said, the district has underfunded secondary level in the past.
- It was mentioned that we need to maximize options for access to courses such as online courses as a way to meet demand.

Textbooks

Although the Implementation Team does not believe it is an issue at this time, going to the 3x5 has increased the need for textbooks. Casandra said that the Implementation Team has begun looking at textbook needs for Trimesters 2 and 3 this year.

High School Principal Report

Randy Bernstein reported from the high school principal's viewpoint on the implementation of the 3x5 so far.

- Three of the four high schools are operating on the same bell schedule. North Eugene HS is starting and ending earlier in the day.
- Most schools have "zero" periods. Overall it has helped to make electives more available. At South Eugene HS, this period is used for upper division music classes. Randy said that having these classes outside the regular instruction day has made scheduling easier and, in some cases, students can take a class on this schedule when they couldn't fit it into their schedule on the old system.

- Students seem to be adjusting to the new schedule. At South Eugene HS, they get more homework from their classes, but that also have one less class to take.
- In a few instances, teachers have taken a single course and adapted it to the 3x5 by dividing it into two or three separate, shorter courses. Generally this has happened with electives and not with core subjects. Overall it has opened up scheduling options for students and helped to make scheduling easier.
- Randy said that South Eugene HS seems a little calmer on the new schedule. Casandra said that it was noted with teachers at North Eugene HS that, even though classes are shorter in daily length, instruction can "slow down" since there are more instructional days in a term than there have been before.
- Randy commented that, on the 3x5, there is no class that everyone has at the same time. This is different and creates logistical challenges, particularly at times when the school needs to find a way to be in touch with most or all students.
- Randy said that the advantage of the 3x5 trimester schedule lining up with the UO schedule is noteworthy. This alignment makes it easier to schedule UO students hired to work as tutors in the district's AVID program. It is also easier to schedule SEHS students in university programs, such as DuckLink.

Data

The group discussed what data would be helpful to see as the implementation progresses. The following kinds of data were listed:

- Freshman failure rates and freshman grades
- Math data, especially since math classes can now be split between terms
- Changes in need for licensures and endorsements
- Attendance rates compared to previous years
- AP/IB completion, amount of college credit earned through coursework
- Participation rates and credits earned for struggling students
- Data and change for shared staff
- Key indicators from achievement compact

It was generally agreed that much of the data would be disaggregated for subgroup analysis.

Next Meeting

The Steering Committee's next meeting will be Thurs., Nov. 7 at 8:00-9:00 in the Parr Room.

Submitted by
Larry Brown