

3x5 IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Thurs., Nov. 7, 2013

Parr Room

8:00-9:00

Report

Committee members present

Barb Bellamy
Randy Bernstein
Chris Castillero
Sara Cramer
Jennifer Geller
Casandra Kamens

Jon Lauch
Cheryl Linder
Oscar Loureiro
Laurie Moses
Simone Sangster
Cydney Vandercar

Others present

Jim Torrey

Purpose of the 3x5 implementation committees

Laurie reviewed the purposes and characteristics of the three 3x5 implementation committees—the 3x5 Steering Committee, the 3x5 Implementation Team, and the 3x5 Instructional Advisory—as outlined in the 3x5 Implementation and Communication Plan.

Jennifer asked what the distinction is between the Steering Committee analyzing data in relation to the 3x5 and having an evaluation of the 3x5. Laurie suggested that the Steering Committee's analyzing data has to do with assessing the implementation as it progresses; a decision about evaluating the 3x5 in District 4J—whether or not there would be an evaluation and, if so, who would do it--would be made by the Steering Committee or school board further into the implementation.

Sharing reports and information

Laurie asked the committee what would be best for sharing reports and information about the work of the 3x5 Implementation Steering Committee. The group decided by consensus that editing meeting minutes would be done via email, not at a meeting. The group also decided to post the committee's meeting minutes on the district website where other information about the 3x5 is posted.

Teacher Participation

Laurie reported that three of the five high schools/programs implementing the 3x5 schedule have allocated funds in their Leadership Plans to support the 3x5 implementation. She also reported that she has met with Tad Shannon with a proposal for including and compensating teachers from the other high schools.

Teacher participation will be on the 3x5 Implementation Team and on the 3x5 Teacher Instructional Advisory.

3x5 Implementation Team

Casandra reported that the 3x5 Implementation Team has identified issues that need to be addressed. Topics include (1) IHS, especially IB requirements and deadlines, (2) zero period, (3) continuity of teachers for students, (4) prioritizing acceleration of students, (5) sharing of students across buildings, and (6) class sizes.

Casandra said that she is working to put the master schedules from the various high schools into a common format for the purpose of comparing and discussing schedules across the district. She also reported that a district team, including an assistant principal from each high school, would be attending a master schedule training this winter.

High School Report

Randy reported that students seem to have adjusted to the 3x5 schedule. It seems that most students feel the shift has been manageable.

Randy said that teachers are still adjusting to the change, especially in regards to having a different length of class period from what they have previously had. He acknowledged the district's providing time for teachers to adjust curriculum and instruction for the 3x5 schedule and said that teachers are making use of that time.

Randy said that a question is what adjustments will need to be made for Trimester 2. He said a challenge is finding enough teacher FTE to meet the learning needs of students, especially those who struggled in Trimester 1 and need assistance in Trimester 2.

Parent/Teacher Feedback

Laurie reported on the 3x5 being discussed with the NEHS Parent Council and the IHS Site Council:

(1) The NEHS Parent Council discussed a potential concern about the amount of homework students might have on the 3x5; this concern has lessened as students and teachers, moving further into the term, continued to adjust to the 3x5.

(2) Informal conversations with teachers indicate that IHS teachers are feeling generally positive about the 3x5. There is more time for meeting IB requirements, and the teachers like seeing students more frequently. It was noted that class sizes in IHS are large. IHS student responses are mixed. While students mostly seem to be adjusting to the 3x5, some feel choices are limited and seniors appear to be somewhat less supportive than other students.

Next steps, other issues

(1) Randy commented that resources continue to be an issue and would be regardless of what schedule we have. With enough resources, he said, the 3x5 would be able to provide acceleration and remediation; however, without sufficient resources, the schools must make choices as to what students will be offered.

(2) Jennifer said she'd like to see a focus on dealing with issues around math curriculum, including continuing to look for options available to students who struggle.

(3) Randy said that SEHS teachers like having an Instructional Access period for students and that students make use of it. Casandra said that Instructional Access time (known as OAT) is valued at NEHS, too; at this time, NEHS is providing 45 minutes of OAT time after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Next Meeting

The Steering Committee's next meeting will be Thurs., Dec. 5. The following was suggested for the meeting's agenda:

- Attendance data, subgroup data
- Participation data in selected areas (e.g., the arts, IHS)
- Additional information about merging the IHS schedule with 3x5 schedule

Submitted by
Larry Brown