

3x5 IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Thurs., Dec. 19, 2013

Parr Room

8:00-9:00

Report

Committee members present

Barb Bellamy
Randy Bernstein
Chris Castillero
Jennifer Geller
Casandra Kamens

Jon Lauch
Oscar Loureiro
Laurie Moses
Carmen Urbina
Cydney Vandercar

Steering Committee Report

Laurie Moses welcomed the group to the meeting. She commented that the report from the Steering Committee's November meeting is posted on the district website.

The Register-Guard Article

Laurie Moses referenced *The Register-Guard* article about the implementation of the 3x5 schedule. She commented that the first part of the article in which a student's incomplete schedule was described was inaccurate. Laurie said that the article was discussed at the board meeting the night before and clarification was provided. Barb Bellamy said that the newspaper will be publishing a correction.

Report: High Schools

Randy Bernstein mentioned a letter by an SEHS student that was also published in *The Register-Guard*. He said that the student's reference to a survey of students was misleading, since the survey was to have been initiated by student government and not school administration. Her noting one of her classes having 48 students was also an exaggeration.

Randy also reported the following:

- SEHS is having struggling students repeat the first half of a course in Trimester 2 when the students struggled and were not successful in the course Trimester 1. This strategy will hopefully allow the student to take the second half of the course in Trimester 3, thus completing the course credit within one academic year. Meanwhile, NEHS is reserving space in Trimester 3 for a lab type of class in which students can make up the portions of the class they did not succeed in during the first two trimesters.
- It appears that the numbers of students with failing grades at SEHS is smaller at the end of Trimester 1.

- Randy's sense of SEHS parents is that they are taking a wait-and-see attitude. Laurie said that IHS will be surveying parents and that some Sheldon parents are concerned about class time going from 85 minutes to 70 minutes.
- Randy said that SEHS teachers are now dealing with not having students throughout the year. Casandra said that at NEHS two and three trimester classes are set up so that the student will have the same teacher for the entire course; this point is a priority for scheduling at NEHS.
- Randy said that scheduling students in the arts classes remains a challenge and bears further review.
- Principals reported that grade 12 students appear to be struggling the most with the schedule change.

3x5 Implementation Team

Casandra Kamens reported that the Implementation Team has met twice since the last Steering Committee meeting.

Schedules for Finals

The Team has generally concluded that a special schedule for finals is not necessary at the schools and that small adjustments within the regular schedule would be practical and effective.

Instructional Access Time

Casandra said that there seems to be an interest in more instructional access time at Churchill HS, and showed some interest in the NEHS model of 45 minutes three times a week.

IHS & IB Diploma

Marilyn Curtis presented about IB diploma requirements and about the IHS program so that Team members understood IB and IHS better. Casandra said that there was discussion about options and alternatives for the IHS and host school programs.

Master Schedule

The Team began looking at the schools' master schedules so as to understand better the issues that need to be addressed and considered during scheduling. All schools are giving serious consideration to how students struggling in Trimester 1 are supported going forward into Trimester 2.

Essential Skills For Grade 12 Students

Casandra said there is a question as to who is responsible for the Essential Skills requirement, especially when IHS grade 12 students have not yet met the requirement. Unlike host schools, IHS does not have an Essential Skills focused class. Carmen said that she sees this as an issue of access; must an IHS student drop out of IHS to access help with Essential Skills?

3x5 Teacher Instructional Advisory

Laurie reported that the Teacher Instructional Advisory had its first meeting. The initial purpose of the group is to give teachers an opportunity to talk with teachers from other schools about both their successes and concerns with the 3x5 schedule and its implementation. The Advisory

is intended to be a place for teachers to talk together about teaching in the 3x5 schedule and, in the process, get ideas and problem-solve.

For positive outcomes, teachers reported that since the implementation of the 3x5 began, some are talking and collaborating more with colleagues. In particular, the schedule has prompted discussions on aligning curriculum for the purpose of clarifying what is taught in each 12-week trimester term. Teachers also reported that many appreciate having students in class on an every-day basis.

Teachers also have concerns:

Relationships: Some teachers saw their students more frequently on the previous schedules (e.g., all year at SEHS, 18 weeks per term at SHS). The change to the 3x5 has been difficult for some teachers, especially when they have students for only one 12-week term or do not have students in consecutive terms.

Students accessing teachers: In some cases students are not able to access teachers and get extra help outside the school day.

Failures: There is a concern that the number of students failing the first term of school will be higher this fall on the 3x5 schedule.

Laurie noted a growing awareness of school curriculum not being the same at each school and some interest in having decisions made to eliminate inconsistencies. It has been noted that it is not clear who would make these decisions and how the decisions would be made.

Chris Castellero reported that he has analyzed inconsistencies in math curriculum across the district and that he has a question as to how these will be resolved. Laurie said that the 3x5 Implementation Team would be a place to address this at the high school level.

In addition to concerns specific to the 3x5 schedule, teachers on the Advisory reflected the general sense of feeling overwhelmed by all that is going on and new, including Synergy and TalentEd in addition to the 3x5 schedule.

Data

Oscar Loureiro distributed examples of data reports available from Synergy. Information about Trimester 1 is not available yet.

The group identified what data would be good to review for the January meeting:

- A report with demographic breakdown on failing grades, including *D* grades and Incompletes. There is interest in learning more about core course failures, the prevalence of students repeating courses, and the options for make up labs.
- A report showing what students are enrolled in AP/IB courses by demographics and their success at earning credit.
- A report showing class size comparatively by school.

- A report showing the degree to which students are fully scheduled at least for grade 9 at each school.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Thurs., Jan. 16.

Submitted by
Larry Brown