**School Community Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 7, 2009**

**5:15 p.m.**

**PRHS Bobcat Cafe**

Present: Carol Lurie, Linda Horton, Pam Harland, Carolyn Varin, Dawn Day, Doug Ross, Tyler Reidy, Bruce Parsons, Jade McLaughlin, Deirdre Flynn-Robinson, Emilie Weber, Annie D’Elia, Denise McGlone, Ann Blanchard, Donni Hughes, Peter Gulick, Emily Kelley, Sally Grand, Barbara Noyes, Isabel Rollison, Julie Fogarty, Robert Price, Nicholas Mignanelli, Michael Mignanelli

1. Minutes from the October and November meetings were approved with one small change in wording.
2. Change in schedule discussion began immediately.
3. Peter asked Bob Price to explain the hybrid schedules that he created.
4. Ann Blanchard asked what the purpose is of an extended school day which is included on several of the hybrid schedule options. Bruce explained that an extended day would create a “snow bank” of days. Ann also asked why we haven’t looked more closely at a waterfall type schedule. Bob explained that a waterfall schedule is not really feasible for PRHS to consider- as Newfound HS would not be able to match our schedule. Bruce added that up to 125 Juniors and Seniors work after early release, and a waterfall would not work for them either.

Denise asked “why is the committee looking at changing the schedule?” Bruce explained that we have been looking at our existing schedule and several departments and students are dissatisfied with it. Also, test scores have eroded over time since we changed to the block schedule. When a teacher or student misses a single class, they can go for five or six days without meeting again. Also, several teachers and students have a desire to see each other more often/more consistently.

Bob Price explained that the main reason that he began looking into a hybrid schedule was to try to give every department a piece of what they are looking for. He stated that any of the hybrid schedules will provide an opportunity to see students more often- and that is a benefit to all departments and students.

Doug Ross proposed a schedule that divides the day in half with blocks in the morning and skinnies after lunch. Doug also asked if any schools that have switched to a hybrid model have noticed a change in test scores. He is concerned that Newfound students would not be able to come to our school for CTE if we switch to a hybrid model.

Denise requested that more research be done before we make any recommendations. Meagan concurred with this and suggested that we try to find a correlation with real results between schedules and test scores. She is concerned that our current process of looking at schedules is too speculative.

Donni said that she had been rereading the minutes from past SCC meetings where each department stated what would work best for them. She saw that overwhelmingly departments and students would like a 60 minute period for each class and they would like more consistency in meeting with their students. Donni proposed seven 60 minute periods each day for four days per week. Several benefits with this schedule:

* A consistent, structured schedule where teachers meet with their students four days each week for the optimal amount of time (60 minute classes)
* Theatre, sports, and professional development activities could take advantage of extended rehearsals, practices, and workshops on Fridays
* Having most Fridays off would cut down on personal days taken by staff and students
* Cost savings in: heating, cooling, busing, food service
* Weeks that we have a scheduled holiday- we will have school on Friday
* By mid year, we will have added three days into the “snow bank”
* This could be an attractive draw to potential incoming faculty
* This will increase the average daily teaching time for each class (over the span of a school year, each class would meet for 9 hours longer than the current block schedule)
* This would give students opportunities to be more flexible with their work schedules
* This schedule would increase the frequency and decrease the length of each class period

Peter said that to make a change like this would be a very bold move and wanted to know if the school board would consider such a major schedule change.

Carolyn said that the school board has considered this possibility in the past.

Sally stated that a four day schedule would not be a benefit to students who do not have a positive home life.

Carol said that the real problem is that the attitude of PRHS students is that most of them do not care about academics. She would like us to address how we can change that. Several faculty members disagreed with her statement.

Peter asked where do we want to go from here? We have seven schedules to consider and the faculty is divided almost 50/50 on the debate between keeping the current block schedule.

Isabel said that she would like to survey the student via the student government organization.

Dawn said that her biggest concern is that students are not working on school when they aren’t in school. She believes that they need to be practicing, rehearsing, every single day and not just when they have class.

Barbara asked if anybody is concerned about students who have trouble studying on their own due to a lack of structure. Bruce replied that several of the suggested schedules will provide more structure than the current block schedule.

Isabel will work on a student survey and share it at the January SCC meeting.

Doug will share his suggested schedule at the January SCC meeting.

Donni will share her suggested schedule at the January SCC meeting.

Denise will prepare a survey for the faculty to share at the January SCC meeting.

Bob will report on test scores at the January SCC meeting.

1. The next meeting is Monday January 4th at 5:15 p.m. in the Bobcat cafe.