

Middle School Common Schedule Work Group

Main points from meeting held Tues., Nov. 13, 2012

Background

- Middle school principals presented a rationale for moving to a common schedule in all middle schools by fall of 2013 to the school board on Wed., Nov. 7.
- The school board is expected to make its decision about moving to a common schedule at the middle school level on Wed., Nov. 14.
- A Common Schedule Work Group including middle school teachers, administrators and district staff has been established. There are approximately 30 people in the group.
- The Work Group's task is to decide what schedule will provide the optimal learning environment for all of our middle school students while eliminating inequities for students and teachers and addressing our operational and fiscal constraints.
- The Work Group will make a recommendation to the superintendent, who will make a recommendation to the school board.

Givens and Criteria

- Five "givens" were shared. The middle school common schedule will--
 - Be a trimester schedule;
 - Include an "advisory" type of time for students to build college/career knowledge and to be supported in their social and emotional growth;
 - Include time for teacher collaboration;
 - Reduce inequities for students and staff; and
 - Maximize and re-align resources to provide greatest capacity and to personalize instruction and learning.
- The group discussed criteria for selection. To the greatest extent possible the schedule shall--
 - Allow for organizing into instructional grade level and content teams;
 - Maximize instructional time in core content areas (math, language arts, science, social studies);
 - Provide opportunity for analysis of student performance data, including student work;
 - Enhance opportunities for enrichment and intervention;

- Allow for personalization of instruction (consider class size, number of students teachers see daily);
- Support the development of the whole child, including social and emotional development; and
- Be sustainable.