

Attendees: Katelyn Sullivan, Peter Riddle, Jessica Smitson, Olivia Ballard, Samantha Bramlage, Kathleen Keener, Elizabeth Duncan-Scruggs, Ferd Schneider, Acacia Moraes Diniz, Denise Pfeiffer, John Caliguri, Ashley Morgan, Sara Mcguire-Jay, Daniel Coleman, Michelle Martinez, Joseph Stewart, Doreena Fox, Tara Ligon, Laura Brogden, , Barrett Smith (proxy for Liz Thelen), Kathy Restle, Patty Morgan, Kasey Shao, Heather Durbin, Laurie M B Cotton, Kylie Bridgeman, Sam Stephenson , Samantha Gerwe-Perkins, Julie Vernon, Margaret Fisher-Bellman, John Chambers, Erin Kenney-Levin

### Minutes Review

Update: Minutes of instruction--- 60 minutes minimum  
Move to accept with clarification-- John Seconds  
Accept min Yes – 19 No- 0 Abstain- 0  
Minutes accepted

### First item: Calendar additions- Ashley Morgan

Curriculum Night- October 21 6-8 PM  
Conference Night- nov 4 jan 27 apr 8 5-8 PM  
Erin K: What do the conference night look like? Assume digital  
Ashley: Yes. Certain amount time parents in classes? Bc digital 2 hours might not be Needed. Probably not with opening from Mr. Chambers. Codes sent out to parents-- each teacher does presentation for approx 10.  
Denise: Can parents use codes or need links?  
Sam GP: They would have to have approved links.  
Ashley: Ok. That's what we would have to do. Now that some district-level decisions have been made which would limit fielding those questions  
Brian: Propose the conference night be Monday Oct 19 and move to Nov 4 to Nov 10-- due to end of Q1.  
Ashley: With 10/19 you would have curr night 10/21  
Heather D: We should do this sooner rather than later to catch problems  
Brian: I think we should push 2nd q conference back regardless bc it's too soon.  
Erin: If we add one 10/12 and change 11/4 to 11/10...  
Joe: Are conferences contractually obligated?  
Erin/ Brian: yes  
Ferd: Will they need an administrative code?  
Heather: At my kids school, the teachers sent individual links.  
Laura B: Is this a situation where we will able to maximize our time if we have been in touch with parents consistently? I feel like I am doing it as we go, and regularly having mini-conferences.  
Ashley: In the past it was the log-- not sure why it would change?  
Denise: Does it need to be outside of 8-3?  
Erin K: That's true  
Laura: No problem, Denise

John C: We will send out log once we confirm dates

Ferd: For open house, what is expectation? Would a created video satisfy a "live show"?

Joe: That's not a horrible idea-- but not having the interaction with parents takes away from purpose of night

Ashely: What's the contractual obligation?

Erin: When we were in person, if you weren't physically present, you had to take leave/ sick time. Some of the math discussed that most are Wednesdays and that might limit complete participation. Should we change some to other days of week?

Brian: 11/10 is a Tues and we have 11/11 off for Veteran's Day

Erin: Recap-- oct 12, nov 10, jan 27, apr 8 conference. Digital open house 10/21 6-8

Heather: Curriculum Council is on 11/10

Ferd: we have done that before. IN terms of conference night with parents, plenty of us have had conferences outside of p/t conference night. IN the past, some of us have had walk-ins. I think the point is for parents to know that teachers are available on these dates. I assume info will be distributed to parents. Parents will need to schedule individual conferences to maintain privacy.

John: That's what I thought we were discussing-- individual codes per conference.

Laura: Can I get a little more information from Laurie or Sam-- if we schedule through google calendar/ sign up genius can we create unique slots?

Sam GP: Yes-- communication will show up automatically.

Laura: I think that's our answer

Ferd: we have plenty of people who don't know what GOogle calendar is and we are looking at Monday.

Kathy R: Is this turnaround too ambitious?

Denise: What about Monday 10/19?

Margo: The library will make sure something goes out so everyone knows how to do this.

Erin: Should we move to 10/19? This would put conference and open house in same week.

Sara MJ: Since it's after first quarter, it might be a good idea to invite parents with low grades, rather than wait for appts to fill up.

John: It's never really the parents who are in danger who sign up...

Sara MJ: That's why you send it to parents who need it first.

John: THis might tick off the majority. I think we need to have conference night for the people who want to sign up.

Erin: Back to the 12... 15th suggested in chat.

Denise: Do we have a faculty meeting on the 12?

Ashley: yes

Erin: let's vote on the days.... It looks like it's an even split

Ashley: what about the 14th?

Erin: It is in before the end of quarter.

Ashley: I am concerned about grade-grubbing at this time.

Ferd: When are quarter grades due? Thurs after quarter? Grading material in this electronic era takes longer. This feels like a time crunch in quality of evaluation.

Erin: I agree. It takes longer, but I have no answer regarding due dates for grades.

Denise: Do we need a proposal to move forward? I propose the 10/14 for first quarter conference

Erin: Remaining 11/10, 1/10, 4/8 open house 10/21. Ferd second's in chat. Let's vote. Looks like this will pass.

***Conference and Curriculum days Yes- 17 No-0 Abstain-0***

### **Second Item: Honors Discussion-- John Chambers**

John: Just want feedback regarding our initial discussion regarding making honors course a la carte. Please share what you got back.

Denise: Science is for disbanding honors. We think 7,8,9 should CP and AA so learners can know who they are before making those choices.

Sara MJ: Lots of people like honors bc of teaming. We questioned the difference between 9 honors and AA. Hope to replace with some sort of teaming... but if the block schedule is too constraining, would this even be possible? Could English and history be teamed?

John: I want to be clear, when I initiated the discussion, it was not necessarily to disband all honors opportunities.

Laura: This makes me think I misunderstood. Do you want to have honors and AA and CP classes? Or would honors classes just become AA

John: No. I see a three-tiered structure.

Laura: What do you envision the difference between AA and Honors being?

John: That's the whole point: what's the difference now? What's the point? If we are saying the honors program has "something."

Laura: As a former Latin honors teach, I think it is the interdisciplinary teaching that is supposed to go on in a team. That made complete sense, but then history curriculum changed (in 9)-- but we made it work bc of the legacy of Latin. But then science eliminated Latin. The original idea behind honors was to do interdisciplinary "stuff."

Denise: Science doesn't really fit with the honors. IN ninth grade we have CP, AA and Honors... the AA classes are behind. Having three levels is moot.

Patty: We think we should eliminate honors

Brian: The others big piece is missing is that we used to be able to fit three bells together-- the building structure has changed. The interdisciplinary approach has lessened.

Joe: If you talk to the honors teachers now, the science teachers often feel unfairly left out just bc of structure of courses. If we do honors a la carte, is it just AA? But what happens to any teaming? One might have to go.

Brian: Scheduling difficulty--- team two bells rather than three.

Sara mJ: To build on what Brian said and Laurie said in chat, if you went to 2 bells teamed in 7/8 that would be a nice transition to weaning off the team concept.

Ashley: I am concerned that parents will not understand

Joe: If we go to a la carte, honors would have to go.

Brian: AA grew out of the incoming 9th grade. In English, we AA for new students

couldn't get into honors. 9AA is honors--- without teaming. IN English AA is honors-- that's the way we look at it.

Laura: Are we talking about the demographics of honors? I think this is important.

Jessica: If we got to just AA, some kids don't qualify by GPA, but teachers can recommend for AA, which helps diversify.

Erin: We are at another five minutes. Can we motion to continue or are we finished.

Brian Motions

Laura Seconds

Denise: I agree with Jessica. If we open to a la carte, we can recommend and allow kids to self-select their interests/ strengths.

Erin: I've gotten a lot of emails about this. All of these emails were pro teaming. I like the idea of English and SS teaming together. This year is a good year to make these changes.

Sara MJ: In SS, how do you decide if you want to take AA or regular? Lots of parents are deciding this. There isn't a gatekeeper for this. This isn't something student-driven

Brian: There has been an explosion in 10AA. We need to open up more rigor in younger grades to increase rigor.

John: Am I mistaken or are all of our jr high classes AA?

Brian: Yes-- but that's just to differentiate from other CPS schools.

Patty: Bc we are na accelerated school

Ferd: that's not the case in math. We say "accelerated 7" not "pre-algebra"...

John: My point is that honors is in 8 & 9-- in only one of those grades, is there a differentiation between AA and honors. If we said, we have English 8 and honors English 8... that's the differentiation. Kids are getting a false sense of what other kids are doing. Our program by nature is accelerated. There is not CP in grade 8-- just AA

Laura: There is in Latin.

Sara: What about the AA+ in 8 from a few years ago?

Kathy R: That's didn't work-- we did AAH-- but that created some very awkward schedules.

John: I am not looking for a decision today. But we need to talk more and put out feelers. It's going to be a huge issue for some parents who look at honors like a separate school. We should consider that but it shouldn't drive our school.

Kathy R: I think as we have feelings about honors-- but we need to discuss HOW we provide acceleration in 7-9 grades. How are we meeting the needs of our kids?

Erin: This is a good stopping point.

#### **Next: Remote Learning Schedule- Kathy**

Kathy: I want to credit Jessica for creating all of these schedules. Thank you. Thanks to Margo for writing a petition to keep our Weds break day including rationale and research. We are waiting to hear back from the district. Has there been any update, Mr. Chambers?

John: On phone-- listening, but can't talk.

Ferd: My understanding is that the PD is a once a month district-mandate. This should give us even more standing. The sanity of the teaching staff and students is reliant upon that Weds. This once a month meeting should support us.

Kathy: I think we are all on the same page in that regard.

John: At this point, my last conversation with deputy supt, was to stay on our schedule. But I don't know if/ when that could change. There is a huge sentiment that we are getting special treatment... "Walnut teachers don't have to do the PD..." as the principal, I have to watch my timing of proposals. They don't want to perpetuate that feeling. ADDITIONALLY, when we have these discussions, do NOT need to go on Facebook or other social media. Other teachers are learning what we are doing and are complaining before we even propose these ideas. This undermines our efforts. Do not blast it all over social media. My proposals have been intercepted before I proposed them bc they were on social media and complaints went to the superintendent's office. Please share this with your departments.

Kathy: The idea for Wednesday-- the five minute leeway is for quick breaks on Weds. Weds may have required meeting time for teachers in case students want teacher access. This is reflective of what is happening elsewhere in the district. Parents want more instructional time-- teachers can decide if meetings are required, but should be available. We also have other schedules prepared should this not be approved. If we approve all schedules, we don't need to revisit

Erin: Two things: Schedule for Weds with rationale and then holiday schedule.

Brian: What about taking it back to the department? I haven't talked to my people about it.

Denise: I talked to my dept today.

Doreena: I did, too.

Ferd: The holiday schedules are a slam dunk. The Weds flex day could be a different Discussion

Erin: I think they are two separate proposals

Brian: what are these schedules? I haven't had a chance

Jessica: These are election week and veteran's day schedules. Thanksgiving week, will only be mon/ tues.

Danielle: other than the five minutes, this is the same, right?

Jessica: Yes

Sara: We weren't required to be online on Weds.

Kathy R: it's still not required attendance for class-- just to be clear.

Erin: The only argument I have heard is in fine arts, a teacher who splits time between buildings is required in more than one place at one time. This affects two teachers/ Do we change policy for these teachers or do we wait for the district?

Jessica: IF the schedule stays the same, we should be fine. If we flip flop, it will be a Problem

John C: for Chris, he may miss his 5th bell walnut class on Wednesday.

Erin: With our number of teachers, I am not sure how we can change everything for two.

Jessica: Maybe Chris can have another time available. We will chec..

Erin: Any other discussion on the proposals. Let's do holiday proposals.

Denise: I propose we accept holiday schedule as presented

Brian: Seconded

Erin: That passes and one abstention. With the flex Weds schedule, do you have enough feedback to vote? I think we should vote this meeting in case the district comes to us.

Brian: Agree

Joe: Agree

Erin: Proposal to accept?

Denise: I propose we accept the proposal with rationale

Laura: We are voting on the Weds schedule with five minutes

Erin: yes-- that will also pass.

***Holiday Schedules Yes-17 No-0 Abstain-1***

***Wednesday Flex Schedule Yes – 15 No –1 Abstain - 3***

Erin: Schedule for PD Mondays if necessary?

Jessica: NO-- this is a district provided PD session. We are investigating if it's recorded. It's only once a month. Other three weeks are teacher collaboration.

Erin: That's TBA

Brian: IN the meantime, we are supposed to be doing dept PD.

Jessica: What I would really like to recommend is tech training or horizontal/ vertical Teaming.

Brian: What about CEUs? Do we get credit? How?

Joe: There is a form the creator of PD fills out and participants sign. I will get that to everyone.

### **Last item: Remote learning best practices**

Erin: Lots of conversations about this proposal. This is just a suggestion based on what our students need. This is NOT a requirement for teachers. We hope to get some PD on the school calendar.

Jessica: We are going to provide PD there is also a video on the library youtube Channel (<https://youtu.be/UumORUIxJaI>). We have gotten a lot of feedback from parents that calendar makes it much easier to track work.. If you put the assignment in, it automatically updates. Assigning something via updates does not put items on calendar. We would really like for teachers to use calendar.

Erin: Is this what you are talking about? (showing Schoology screen)

Jessica: If students look at calendar, they can see upcoming assignments from all classes, including color coding for organization. We can make a video on how to do this. Let me show an example. You can see each class is a different color. Click on the assignment and it goes directly to the assignment. It's like a digital planner.

Ashley: You can't link AP classroom to the calendar, but you can put the event. It won't

be graded in Schoology, but the event will be there.

Sara MJ: For the AP kids, it should be something they are aware of and can navigate to what they need to get to. It is also good for teachers reflection

Joe: When we met with the FOS team, the calendar was the number one recommendation from that committee. I also feel we should be coming back to "is this the best decision for students?" It's hard to argue that the calendar is NOT in the best interest of kids. There are no negatives here-- only "I don't want to learn it." I cannot stress enough how much this was stressed by the committee

Sam b: For clarification, assignments, automatically go to calendar.

Ashley: And you can add events-- not assignments.

Jesscia: or even if weds is optional, you can write that.

Sam b: updates do not go to calendar?

Jessica: Correct

Erin: I use the calendar even when it is an assignment outside of Schoology. The only concern I have heard is about schoology's inconsistent functionality. If Google Classroom is always working, why use something else?

Jessica: When Schoology was adopted, it was never required until this year. Google Classrooms can be linked to Schoology.

Joe No tech platform is 100%. But it's a good point, Erin-- we just have to adapt.

Ashley: And none of these companies thought all students would be on 100% of time. Hopefully, the next Wesd we have PD , we will have calendar help.

Brian: Can I bring up a peripheral thing? My hands are aching from all of this computer. I cannot believe how much time this is all taking-- It's having a physical toll. I wanted to put it out there.

Erin: This is why Weds are really important.

Brian: I talked with the kids-- they agree

Jessica: Ok second part-- Weekly plan folder-- please add office hours/ help night hours and how to contact teachers. In the past, we did a google form to post on site. We did that this year so that we can post online and parents will know.

Sara MJ: Can that just be during the Weds flex time?

John: I think that's ok. The larger issue is to be available. Teachers need to be available. Some teachers told kids they wouldn't log in on Wednesdays. This is ammunition for parents. Teachers must log in on Wednesdays.

Erin: Any other questions? Alright, back to agenda. I think that was our last item. Motion to adjourn?

Ferd: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Margo: I second.