

**Mueller Park Community Council Meeting
February 27, 2017
6:45 – 7:30 A.M.
Office Conference Room
Minutes**

Welcome: John Tobin (Community Council Chair)

Attendance: Deanne Kapetanov, Richard Stout, John Tobin, Maria Ellis, Rob Hunter, Claire Cassity, Chris Doherty, Kevin Poff, Karen Ericson

Excused: Jessica Gunn

Approval of January minutes: Motioned by Richard Stout and seconded by Chris Doherty. There was a unanimous approval by the Community Council (Mrs. Kapetanov, John Tobin, Kevin Poff, Claire Cassity, Rob Hunter, Maria Ellis and Karen Ericson)

Discussion of the school schedule for 2017-2018: Mrs. Kapetanov led a discussion regarding concerns of remaining on a regular 7 period day in the future. She quoted from Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE): “The middle school is the finding place; for young adolescents, by nature, are adventuresome, curious explorers. Therefore the general approach for the entire curriculum at this level should be exploratory.”

What are the issues?

- Changing State Requirements: New Digital Literacy semester course will be required by the State. It can be taught in grades 7 or 8, but grade 8 is strongly suggested.
- Dual Language Immersion (DLI): full year course
 - o French beginning SY 2017-18
 - o Chinese students are coming beginning SY 2018-19
- DLI Culture, History and Media is a semester course that is highly recommended for success in AP French/Chinese.

Dual Language Immersion Impact to MPJH:

2017-18 - 32 students

2018-19 - 108 students

2019-20 - 198 students

2020-21 - 254 students

2021-22 - 292 students

BY SY 2020 THE PROJECTED TOTAL ENROLLMENT WILL BE 1035

Seventh grade Students taking DLI classes will not have room in their schedule for a full year elective (Band, Orchestra, Choir etc.)

Eighth grade students have room for only 1 full year elective with the new Digital Literacy requirements.

Schedule options: Traditional vs. Modified Block schedule 2017-18:

- Traditional schedule:
 - o 45 minute classes
 - o Elective options:
 - 4 semester classes
 - 3 semester classes
 - 6 semester classes
 - o Average class size 33
 - o Average case load 196
- Modified Block schedule:
 - o 80 minute classes
 - o Elective options:
 - 6 semester classes
 - 5 semester classes
 - 8 semester classes
 - o Average class size 37
 - o Average case load 224
- 10 Period Block (5 X 5): Some schools in the District are using the 5 X 5 schedule. One concern with a 5 X 5 schedule is that students have even less classroom time unless they are double blocked.
 - o Average class size 35
 - o Average case load 280
 - o No intervention time (Panther Time)

The possible Modified Block Schedule would have Panther Time at the end of the day for 30 minutes instead of 20 minutes. That gives students and teachers more time for interventions and ability to complete work. Richard Stout asked about students who are on the margin of academic success. Over a two-week period, those students would lose 50 minutes of class time in each course. John Tobin said that with a traditional schedule, there are start-up activities and clean up times that take time from the 45 minute class period. With an 80 minute class time, there isn't as much start up and clean up time. Deanne Kapetanov said that teachers would have to be even more in tuned with *what is essential* for students to learn. Teacher training would be needed to help shift gears in their teaching.

Deanne Kapetanov reviewed the pros and cons discussed with JSSC and Faculty.

Professional Development would be needed. Some possibilities are:

- August 3rd and 4th: Teacher to Teacher training
- Block teaching in June funded by LAND trust monies on June 20th 8:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- Solution Tree Hybrid PLC

Faculty Vote 2/24/2017:

- 40 voted in total

- 39 voted yes to move to the 4/4 schedule
- 1 voted that they are fine either way

Rob Hunter said that he likes the 7 period day schedule best. He's concerned about students sitting for 80 minutes at a time. He said that he doesn't send his students to school for electives. He's sending them for core classes and doesn't mind if his students don't get electives in junior high school. Richard Stout said that he is concerned about students who struggle. He would like to take a deeper look at the proficiency rates of schools who have been on the 4 X 4 Block schedule.

John Tobin said that he could see that some parents were on the fence with the change to a 4 X 4 block schedule. He asked parents if they would like more time to think about the schedule change and come back to discuss. John Tobin said that Community Council members can provide feedback but their vote is not required. Kevin Poff said that a faculty vote was not required either. Rob Hunter said that he would like more time to discuss with parents and provide additional feedback. Karen Ericson said that she feels students need electives and doesn't feel the 7 period day is the solution to helping the struggling student. Deanne Kapetanov said that she had an informal discussion with PTO regarding a change to the daily schedule.

Community Council meeting will be Monday April 10th to finalize the School Improvement Plan.

Adjourn: Kevin Poff motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Rob Hunter. There was a unanimous approval by all Community Council members (Mrs. Kapetanov, John Tobin, Claire Cassity, Richard Stout, Chris Doherty, Maria Ellis, and Karen Ericson).