

BUTLER DISTRICT 53: Education Committee

Group Purpose: The purpose of the Education Committee is to ensure a high quality education for all Butler 53 students.

Date: February 5, 2019

Location: Butler 53 Board Room

Time: 4PM

Present: Ms. Owen, Mrs. Greco, Mrs. Krause, Ms. Read, Mrs. Huber, Ms. Beg, Mrs. Considine, Ms. Prola, Mrs. Biesel, Dr. Wennstrom, Ms. Angelillo, Mrs. Prochaska, Dr. Prosen, Ms. Lauer, Ms. Tarantino, Mrs. Wozny

Housekeeping: Items related to our December discussion regarding electives/exploratories at BJH:

- [BJH Bell Schedule](#)
- [Ideas for FY20 BJH Master Schedule](#)
- [FY20 Scheduling Priorities](#)
- [FY19 Exploratory Preferences](#)
- **Scheduling Consultant Options:**
 - <http://ronwilliamson.com/>
 - <http://merenbloomseminars.com/>

Agenda Item	Details	Notes
<p>Old Business: FY20 BJH Schedule & Explanatories - Ms. Read</p>	<p>Continued discussion from Jan. meeting</p>	<p>Schedule FY20 Update: Traditional, block, and unit scheduling are being reviewed for Butler Jr. High School in order to accommodate an increase of fine art classes yet we continue to encounter obstacles. Feel free to make a copy and use the information linked to create a possible solution. Click Here</p> <p>Ms. Angelillo’s proposal, linked in the reference section of these minutes, for a full-year art program for Grades 6-8 was very well-received. In addition, her plans for exploratories next year would include: photography, art exploration, set design. She also mentioned offering courses during the summer.</p> <p>Mrs. Biesel requested to see a similar proposal for music.</p> <p>Ms. Read is concerned about staffing and scheduling implications, as the schedule needs to be built this spring.</p> <p>Having specific parameters makes it possible to complete the building master schedule. Dr. Wennstrom requested clarification regarding implementing what the proposal outlines in lieu of offering electives. Mrs. Biesel expressed there has</p>

		<p>been a “resounding gong” to expand fine arts at Butler Junior High School. In an effort to support the Whole Child, the board wishes to dedicate more fine arts time to the student instructional day. A parent concern was raised that this change is moving forward too fast without fully informing the community or gathering enough feedback from the community. The parent expressed a desire to see the board include input from the parents, students, and faculty. A teacher indicated that the present election program was generated by student data. BJH adjusts election course offerings each year through student interest and faculty input. Additional solutions offered by Ms. Read was to add an additional (Part time) art teacher to ensure art is offered to all students next year, or to have the BF teacher teach a section of art at BJH, as has been done in the past. She indicated that more time is needed to develop a concrete plan to expand fine arts at Butler.</p> <p>Mrs. Bieselin would like a review completed of the BJH schedule from years prior (she offered the schedule from her years here as an example to review).</p> <p>A request was raised for a current list of electives and the process of requesting/assigning. An overview of the current staff’s ideas for FY20 elective courses was shared by Ms. Read. Mrs. Bieselin inquired about the possibility of making study hall an elective period. This possibility was given consideration by the team and it seemed to be a viable option. To begin creating the schedule it would need to be determined what we are keeping in the schedule and what we would be giving up, so parents could be informed and have an opportunity for input. A parent asked why we are not allowing Ms. Read to create a schedule that works for BJH as she is the principal. It was also asked, why we need to decide this for next year at this late in the year?</p> <p>Which option do we want to explore?:</p> <p>Option 1: Offer Art/Music 5 days per week, with out exploratories</p> <p>Option 2: Offer the 4 electives with the highest student votes</p> <p>Option 3: leave schedule as is</p> <p>According to Mrs. Bieselin the rush for a decision is due to “overwhelming” feedback on the current schedule with a focus</p>
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		<p>on doing away with electives.</p> <p>A parent suggestion was made again to poll the community (parents and students). We should take time to inform the community the options; include what coursework would be gained and what coursework would be eliminated. The group agreed that it seems the next step is to send out a survey.</p> <p>Ms. Bieselín asked if a draft survey could be ready by 2/11/19 BOE meeting. She expressed the need for the results to be shared at the March Education Committee meeting and the March BOE meeting.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that Ms. Read proceed with next year's schedule utilizing our current model, while considering the new art exploratory suggestions to the course offerings.</p> <p>Mrs. Huber will initiate the survey document. Mrs. Bieselín will work with Heidi on the survey for dissemination. We will request that parent feedback be sent directly to education@butler53.com</p> <p>The suggestion was restated that we begin with parent communication before implementation.</p> <p>Our performance data reflects growth and success. Some members asked if there is a need to allocate resources differently? Ms. Bieselín and Dr. Wennstrom shared the intent of the board to expand the fine arts and to create an opportunity similar to a previous model of dedicated fine arts in the junior high that was experienced by previous students in prior year.</p> <p>The committee decided there was a need to identify timelines. The possible use of a consultant was discussed. Dr. Wennstrom stated that we must determine the schedule priorities and coursework (exploratories and/or fine arts) so that the schedule options could be considered in house first. Committee</p>
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<p>New Business: Alternative Learning Days</p>	<p>Discussion of rigor and review of feedback</p>	<p>State laws have impacted how schools can schedule days, allowing for some flexibility and alternative design days. The plan was to implement any changes next year, however due to the historical extraordinary weather conditions, a need for continued learning was present. The teachers put considerable work into the lesson design, developing a range of learning activities from home. There was an intentional blend of e-learning and non-e-learning activities, as the forecasted weather predicted some loss of power would be experienced. The bad weather allowed for us to take advantage of this. The state allowed flexibility for districts to determine which grades would participate in the attendance day activities. The state also gave flexibility on how long the school day can be.</p> <p>The board is considering whether to count these two alternative learning school days (January 30 & 31).</p> <p>Teachers and administrators stated that they received a lot of feedback. Introduction of new content was not an expectation of the day. A parent indicated that we have a dilemma in that staff and students did work. Students and teachers will be upset if these days do not count. Ultimately the board will determine if these days will count.</p> <p>Mrs. Bieselin questioned the committee about improvements for this model. Was this a day of instruction a full day? Was the content rigorous enough?</p> <p>The length of the time it took to complete the activities varied by household. The feedback from the parent survey was 80% positive. The evidence so far is overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p>Ms. Wozny spoke about the high quality of lessons and how hard the teachers worked to complete the work. The principals</p>

		<p>were very impressed with the range and creativity of opportunities. Teachers worked on Monday and Tuesday to create quality lessons. Teachers also had designated professional learning activities on Wednesday and Thursday. Many teachers were also emailing with students throughout the school day.</p> <p>Dr. Wennstrom shared the results of the survey. 74 parents responded to the district survey. A parent expressed that the work for some of the older students may have been too difficult. Ms. Bieselin expressed that the Board Members have received feedback that what was given to students was not on par with what they would have experienced with their teacher. Dr. Wennstrom shared the concerns brought forward by Dr. Beatty, who did not find value in the student assignment. Most specifically, her concerns related to rigor and that her students completed their work in an hour. Mrs. Bieselin listened to opposing perspectives on the work quality. She also expressed appreciation for the work the teachers put into creating the lessons.</p> <p>The board will review if these days will count. Dr. Wennstrom stated that we are fully compliant with the current law. State did not require for us to count the amount of time or attendance. Ms. Wozny expressed her concern about the days not being counted as part of the school calendar. Ms. Wozny addressed that we were under very extreme circumstances and the teachers did an excellent job of preparing lesson on their day off. Dr. Prosen stated that we can not quantify learning in this manner in addition parents received insight into the diverse planning needs associated with learning. Ms. Wozny stated there would be a real issue with the teacher's association if these days worked were not counted. A parent shared that there could be a grievance with teachers given this situation. Teachers and parents expressed a concern that a negative decision could impact trying something new for a long time. Multiple parents expressed a need to ensure that teachers are valued, respected, and supported.</p>
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<p>New Business: Innovative Learning Spaces and Technology</p>	<p>Discussion of investigation and pilot</p>	<p>This was not addressed, given the time constraint. The topic should be added to the March meeting.</p>
<p>New Business: Summer Learning Opportunities</p>	<p>Discussion of student learning opportunities for summer 2019</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Committee shared out that the district can not conduct summer learning in the district. Dr. Wennstrom is talking with other schools to be able to use alternate facilities. Can we offer some of those art courses in the summer? A need exists for a jump start August summer school for students with identified learning needs. There is a possibility of band camp being conducted in the BJH Multipurpose Room, however no other areas of the school will be accessible due to construction projects in place for summer 2019.</p>

<p>New Business: Dedicated time for Music and Art learning opportunities at BJH</p>	<p>Discussion of fine arts proposal; invitation to Nina Angelillo to share her proposal</p>	<p>Miss Angelillo brought a number of student art exemplars and presented her art proposal to the committee. The vision for mandatory art and music experiences was discussed in conjunction with the above topic: FY20 BJH Schedule & Exploratories. Miss Angelillo answered questions posed by the Education Committee. The Committee shared her enthusiasm for the Arts.</p>
<p>New Business: Policy Work - Dr. Wennstrom</p>	<p>Policy Committee has recommended the Education Committee review policies specific to the curriculum (see reference documents)</p>	<p>Policies for review and input (not addressed given the time constraint. The topic should be added to the March meeting.) 6:10 - Policy - Educational Philosophy and Objectives 6:135 - Policy - Accelerated Placement Program 6:135AP - Administrative Procedure - Accelerated Placement Program Procedures 6:290 - Policy - Homework 6:30 - Policy - Organization of Instruction</p>
<p>New Business: MTSS Update - Ms. Prola</p>	<p>November & December agenda item</p>	<p>This was not addressed, given the time constraint. The topic should be added to the March meeting.</p>
<p>New BUSINESS: STEM/STEAM Brook Forest Update - Dr. Prosen</p>		<p>This was not addressed, given the time constraint. The topic should be added to the March meeting.</p>
<p>New Business: Social-Emotional Learning - Mrs. Greco</p>		<p>This was not addressed, given the time constraint. The topic should be added to the March meeting.</p>
<p>New Business: Metrics for Success- Mrs. Greco</p>		<p>This was not addressed, given the time constraint. The topic should be added to the March meeting.</p>

Discussion Topics:

- We are scheduled to meet on March 5th for our next Education Committee meeting

Reference documents:

- http://www.hhsta.org/cuts-already-underway-in-district-86/?fbclid=IwAR1sHb0UaokNTxKmYmcpJD_989iyP4zbn0x3nUdS13g33VpW2GW8PSLR3sM
-recommended for review by the committee by Mrs. Huber

- [FY20 Calendar for Review and Input](#)
- [BJH Fine Arts Proposal](#) - submitted by Nina Angelillo

Rotating Secretary:

September - BJH Principal

October - BF Principal

November - BJH Teacher

December - BF Teacher

January - BF Teacher

February - BJH AP

March - BF AP

April - BOE

May - PTO
