

THHS 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK COMMUNITY MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2013 6:30 P.M.
THHS CHOIR ROOM

40 people in attendance – see sign in sheet

Questions/Comments from those in attendance

Do you offer college classes? Mr. Nicklay and Mr. Crandall explained this....yes.

Regarding the application for an ALC --

Is there bussing for this? Response: Depending on the funding, it is a possibility

This sounds like a wonderful opportunity

Positive for the 4-day week...Kids need rest and down time. It's a great thing for a longer weekend. The kids have extra family time.

When will we know if we get approved? Response: Mr. Crandall addressed this – saying we really don't know. The application deadline is April 15

Budget seems to be the main reason for the 4-Day week which seems appropriate.

A lot of numbers were presented tonight, is it possible that you could give a % of savings.

Could you calculate the % saved based on the 2010 operating cost? It may show a greater savings.

Congratulations on the presentation and all the numbers you have presented. I went to school here and graduated from THHS. When I went to college, I felt I was unprepared. How are our children going to feel when they have gone to school only 4-days a week and are expected to go to college 5 days a week and once they are working a 5 day a week job. Are we preparing them for the rest of their lives?

When will we know if the application is approved? Response – see above

Our family just moved into the district. The kids were so excited for a 4-day week. They are tired by Thursday but a 3 day weekend with family and having that extra day is great. There is no rushing around, time to do activities at home – an extra day to bond.

The day is only a ½ hour longer than normal....it's not that different.

Kids are tired by Thursday – but on the flip side, they are very refreshed on Monday.

Is there room for adjustment in the time schedule? We are above the state standard – can we reduce the minutes of the day? Mr. Nicklay responded, No, we have to keep what had previously to the 4-day week.

At the High School, there is a 10 minute time slot before class begins. This is a chance for students to meet with their teachers if they have questions or concerns. Many students take this opportunity.

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In the Elementary School, all time except lunch and recess is considered educational time.

You stated that there are 40 years of other states (other than MN) doing flexible learning years – do you have any data on that. Response: No, we don't. We can look into that

You said we are maintaining our testing scores on the 4-day week. What would happen if we went back to a 5-day week? Would the test scores exceed standards?

\$400,000 doesn't seem like much savings, but it has definitely benefited students by smaller class sizes and more programs. If we would not have had this savings, the class size would be bigger and there might not be the programs for kids to choose from.

I support the 4-day week....but what is the ALC and is it different funds that would put students back in school on Fridays? Mr. Crandall's response: Yes, it is different funding and it would apply to the students who are not meeting the standards. ALC is for students below grade level.

Mr. Crandall: ALC is a state program. Anyone who lives in the state of Minnesota would be eligible. Students need to meet specific criteria. This would be available to summer residents and people from around the area.

If we had the money, would we go back to a 5-day week or would we stay at a 4-day week. What would the teachers have to say? What way is better?

One teacher in the audience responded, her personal opinion. Children are more focused, they like school better with only 4 days. We have longer times to teach the specific program such as math, and I feel that they are learning better. Personally, I would like to stay on the 4 day week.

Comment from the Technology Department regarding the statement, if we had the money would we go back to a 5-day week....If money wasn't the issue, staying on a 4-day week and investing the money in the technology for our students would really benefit the students.

Our goal has always been to focus on Student Achievement for all kids, all achievement levels, and all the time.

Concern regarding sporting practice ending at 6:30 p.m.....this limits opportunities in the community for students. Such as boy scouts, girl scouts, church activities. Everything else gets pushed to the wayside, there is no time left.

It seems that all testing is done on Thursdays. Big papers are due on Thursdays. It's a busy week, with church activities on Wednesday evenings, could testing take place on Mondays when students are refreshed and have had the weekend to work on projects or study? What about writing projects...could these be due on a Monday?

Real Good Presentation

Debbie Peterson 2/5/13