

THHS 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK COMMUNITY MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2013 6:30 P.M.
THHS CHOIR ROOM

53 people in attendance

Questions/Comments from those in attendance

There is a definite need for vocational colleges, very pleased so hear about the connections with MRTI. What is the capacity of THHS? Response: Currently we are at approximately 642 capacity is 700.

Friday or Saturday would be a great day to fit community needs in our school. Response: We are looking at possibilities in the community. There are committees meeting and discussing this very thing. Two Harbors Chamber of Commerce did a study to find the biggest needs in our area with our employers; this is how the Welding and Millwright programs came to be. The same group is getting together this week to look and discuss again.

Use this facility as much as possible.

CLP has grant money available for technology grants - look at funding available. Response: We certainly look at all funding.

Do colleges and Universities look less favorably on a 4-day school week? Response: Colleges and Universities look at transcripts. They also look at leadership skills, volunteer activity, extra-curricular activities and electives. We have not heard any negative comments from colleges or seen anything in research pertaining to a 4-day school week.

ALC – is that available to all students? Response: The student needs to be a requirement of not achieving or by teacher recommendation.

Sounds like a lot of positives things...in our application what type of challenges do we expect from MDE? Response: MDE is looking at academic performance mainly. They want to see our SMART goals, specific goals in the classrooms, and the time structure, which we have already met.

When will we know if we get approved? Response: Application deadline is April 15th, that is all we know at this time.

How long could we maintain if we stay at status quo if MDE does not approve this and we go back to a 5-day school week? Response: We do have positives in our balance. Funding is in line to improve, if the legislature approves things. I (Mr. Crandall) am going to the Capital on 2/27/13 for a meeting on technology funding. However, we would have to look at what we would not offer if we do not get approved.

Do we need to reapply every 3 years? Response: Yes – every 3 years.

What is plan B? Response: Plan B would be a 5 day week, and look at more budget cuts.

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Would Special Education services be offered on Friday with the ALC program? **Response: Not specific IEP plans or occupational therapy. The IEP plans are set for the school week.**

If we are trying to save costs, such as utility costs and yet we are using our building 7 days a week, how are we saving on utilities? **Response: At the THHS, we have resistors for incoming electricity, which saves us approximately 8% on our electricity. If outside activities happen here, they pay a fee to use the building which covers the utility and janitorial expense.**

Will it cost money to provide the ALC service? **Response: we will have to look at everything involved with the ALC to make sure it will work. We cannot lose money.**

How many districts have 4-day weeks? **Response: There are approximately 40 districts that have either a 4-day week or a Flexible Learning Year. There are 25 districts re-applying for either one.**

Have class offerings been stifled with the 4-day week? **Response: No, all classes have remained, we have added electives. We have advanced placement classes and colleges in the schools that our teachers teach.**