

THHS 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK COMMUNITY MEETING
March 5, 2015 6:30 P.M.
THHS CHOIR ROOM

12 people in attendance – see sign in sheet

Comments and Questions from audience members in BOLD.

We will readjust the survey with updated numbers once they have closed.

The reason to move to a 4-day week was 100% financial.

Testing is on the right stuff, teachers are not thinking about just math and reading. They cover all subjects.

In regards to test scores: The average elementary student is more positive, excelling. After 5th or 6th grade, the test scores seem to dip. What is in place to work on the higher grades? We are working on mapping our curriculum. The state sets the standards and we need to see what we have and what we need.

According to the survey – teachers said behavior was better which must equal a better learning environment. Positive behavior is good!

In regard to surveys and student behavior; so they say.... Who wouldn't want to work 4 days a week. One of the biggest employers in Lake County (North Shore Mine) works shift works and flexible work weeks.

Why haven't we mailed out surveys? We have mailed out surveys in the past. We have received a bigger response by posting the surveys on our webpage and emailing them out to local community groups.

A lot of people moving to the area that are working on the Railroad. They are choosing to move to Duluth and Hermantown. They don't want their children taking part in a 4-day work week. How do you get your kids to athletic practice if parents work? The utilities are no savings; in building longer each day, lights on a larger part of the day. Kids are not benefitting. Why raises taxes if you're making savings? Member Ryder explained the levy that was approved by the board in December.

Member Moe: I agree we shouldn't have levied the full amount. The state informed us after we had voted on the levy that that we could re-apply for the 4-day week. We can't forget we have approximately \$200,000 coming from the County this spring. Something we did not anticipate.

Are the teachers teaching the whole class time – or are they giving more time in class for homework?

5 days of sports =good 4 days of school = not good. What are we teaching our children?

Board needs to take a good look at academics. The State is definitely looking at academics.

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Interesting; the students on a 4-day week are doing good at elementary ages. How will they be doing in high school if we continue on a 4-day week? Will they be doing better vs. students on a 5 day? More in-depth studies to come on this!

I think it is a good idea. Kids are not quitting and dropping out of school – they can manage to get there 4 days a week.

Is the testing only on Math and Reading? Science is also included, but the State does not include that in results at this point.

If we spend more time focused on math and reading today – what happens if the State starts testing on science and social studies in the future. Education needs to be balanced.

Are you keeping a close eye on teachers? Some teachers are less effective than others. Mr. Crandall explained the teacher evaluation process that is now in place.

Communication with parents is key!

Focus conferences sound great!