

**Valley R-VI School District**  
**2/3/24 - Minutes from the 4 Day School Week Public Informational Meeting 10:00 - 11:53 am**

Child Care Available in the Gym provided by FBLA & FCCLA  
Refreshments Provided by Valley R-VI Food Service

- Welcome - Maggie Carr - 1st Grade Teacher & Meeting Facilitator
  - Introduction to Meeting Format and our District Calendar Committee
- Our “Why” - Explanation of the “Why” behind the 4 day school week consideration for Valley R-VI
  - Kelly Sadler - Preschool Teacher
    1. What our children/students deserve and stability.
- Review of Recent Stakeholder Survey Data & 4 Day School Week Research
  - Katie Tiefenauer - 7th-9th Grade Social Studies Teacher
    1. Went over the data from the surveys for the students.
    2. Went over data from the staff surveys. ( food insecurity for the students)
    3. Went over data from the parents/ community survey. ( food insecurity, child care & length of day)
    4. Shared a map of what schools in the state of Missouri are already going through a 4-day school week. 30% of public schools in MO are on a 4 day school week calendar for SY 23-24. Mr. Samples explained that DESE has done an independent study of study learning achievement 5 day compared to 4 day school calendars. The study should no to minimal impact on learning achievement if the instructional hours stay the same. The state of MO mandates that all public schools have at least 1,044 hours of student attendance per year and at least 60 hours of inclement weather hours made up as needed. The current proposed school calendars for Valley for SY 24-25 include 1110.8 for a five day calendar and 1106.6 hours of attendance for a five day calendar. Drafts of each calendar were shared with those in attendance.
- Dr. Jon Turner - Educational Professor from Missouri State University - Rural Education Advocate and 4 Day and 5 Day School Week Researcher
  - Dr. Turner spoke with us through Video Conference - Google Meet
  - He also answered questions from the public
  - He said he was not there to advocate for or against a 4 day school week. He said he just has done a lot of research on it, due to being active in Rural Education advocacy.
- Questions From Those in Attendance
  - Goal is not to answer every question - Goal is to gather stakeholder input, to answer questions where information is currently available, and to work on the best answers for our students and community to questions if our district does chose a 4 day school week calendar for SY 24-25

1. Mrs. Carr explained there is a growing interest in the four day school week.
2. Explaining our “ Why” for considering the 4 day calendar - Mrs. Sadler shared her perspective - 20 year teacher, member of community, parent - for her “Why” - discussed the importance of recruiting/retaining staff - specifically teachers
3. Mr. Samples explained our instructional hours and how the state requires 1044 hours. The 4 day and the 5 day both would have at least 1044 hours of instruction. Currently both drafts have more than that with 60 additional hours built in so no inclement weather days had to be made up/rescheduled for a more consistent schedule.
4. Hourly staff would work the same or near the same hours. The district would commit to not cutting pay.
5. Mrs. Teifenauer explains the exploration of the four day school week. She shared the presentation available on our [district website](#). She reviewed a map of the Missouri schools that are currently on a four day school week. The four day school week has been an option in Missouri for over fourteen years. It is also an option in every state west of the Mississippi; an example is 70% of Colorado schools use a 4 day school week calendar.
6. 168 Missouri School Districts - over 30% of Missouri public schools use the 4 -day school. Only two schools that have adopted a four day school week have gone back to a 5 day school week.
7. We reviewed what we have learned from the comments on the surveys and at the public meeting.
8. Reviewed 4 day week Pros and 4 day week Cons
9. 5 day week Pros and 5 day week Cons
10. Increase and Decrease hours yearly schedule and daily schedule explained - ex. Our current daily schedule is 7:56 A.M. - 3:12 P.M. The four day draft has a daily schedule of 7:45 A.M. - 3:32 P.M.
11. IEP and 504 Minutes explained ( Mrs.Byers explains how the students minutes would not change either way and would still be decided by the IEP or 504 team that includes parents/guardians)
12. 4 day week more consistent (providing the Mondays be for PD days and Parent teacher meetings instead of varied days off throughout the year)
13. 4 day week could help the district financially ( 1% less to 5% less annual budget)
14. 4 day week schools typically show higher student and staff attendance than a 5 day school week - due to doctor visits or personal meetings can be scheduled on Mondays.
15. Votech would have an additional 35 minutes of instructional time on each of the four school days. Students would receive the same amount of instructional time with either calendar. AV Tech would allow our students to attend on the 5th day for additional instructional time if the student/family chooses.

16. Monday is the likely off day due to many national holidays being on Mondays, also more doctors, dentists, orthodontists, etc are open on Monday instead of Fridays

17. Mrs. Tiefenauer reviewed the survey data - also available on the [district website](#)

- **Video Call with Dr. Jon Turner - Missouri State University Professor - Rural Education Advocate - Researcher of 4 and 5 day school calendars - links to research shared is available on the [district website](#) :**

1. We welcomed and had a video call with Dr. Jon Turner (he is not for nor against a 4 day school week, he shares that he has done research within the last 10 ten years. )
2. The 4 day school week has been happening for the last 14 years.
3. Many have been going to a 4 day school week since the 1970s.
4. Highly successful for a 4 day week, only two in the state of Missouri that adopted a 4 days school week have gone back to the 5 day school week.
5. The State Department of Education will have a board meeting to review research on the 4 day school week. It was conducted by an independent research provider. They found there is no positive and negative instructional gain or loss in the 4 day and 5 day school calendar if instructional hours remain the same. Here is a [link to DESE's findings.](#)
6. Feedback was shared for what our 5th day could be used for, if we went to a 4 day school week.
7. Pathway for Paraeducators to become teachers and complete college/certification requirements for the 5th day.
- 8.

- **Questions from those in Attendance :**

1. How many students left for homeschool or private school in switching into a 4 day school week? Dr. Turner replied that he has not had reports of a significant amount of students leaving for homeschool or private school from 4 day schools. He had seen an example of a rural school of approximately 400 students having over 20 homeschool students enroll back into the public school system stating they preferred the 4 day school week.
2. What if other schools go with a four day, what if some of the teachers go there with more pay or closer to home? Members of the calendar committee said this has been discussed. There currently aren't any schools in our conference (the MAAA) or in the nearby Jefferson County conference that are on a four day school week. There are schools to our west that are on the 4 day school calendar. Ex. Viburnum, Steelville, Cuba, Bellview currently goes 152.5 days. It would probably be better for us to be ahead of other schools in the 4 day school calendar, then behind them for recruiting and retaining teachers/staff.
3. Who is the MAAA? **MAAA stands for Mineral Area Activities Association. Valley R-VI is a member of this conference. It includes neighboring schools in Iron, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, and Washington County. Currently none of the MAAA are doing the 4 day week. We would be the first if we adopt this.**

4. Comment was made that this is the teachers' chosen career with the expectation to work five days per week. **Katie Tiefenauer - JH/HS teacher - explained in this comment, that teachers do not get paid for time worked during the summer, weekends, or holidays, but they still come in and prepare for our students to make sure they get the best. We will always be committed to do that, but a 4 day calendar could give teachers the option of doing planning, grading, professional development, and training on the 5th day instead of taking a Saturday or Sunday away from family/personal time. She added that many teachers, coaches, administrators and staff will still work on Saturdays and the 5th day.**
5. Would having students with disabilities coming to school on the 5th day be a punishment or discriminatory when other students do not? **Mrs. Byers - SpEd Director - explained that any 5th day remediation, continuation, or enrichment would not be just for the SPED offered for the whole student body unless the IEP team with the parents/guardians determined a SpEd student needed extended school day services, which we already provide currently.**
6. Would the JH/HS Saturday school possibly be moved to a 5th day? This is a possibility and would allow students that have violated the attendance policy or that need additional instructional help or possibly discipline to use a 5th day instead of Saturday. What are other schools doing for their 5th day, would it be a full day?
7. How will families with two working parents plan for childcare? **Dr. Turner shared that many schools that have started a 5th day daycare program end up closing it due to lack of participation. Our district could consider this with our paraprofessionals and teachers that want to work for Career Ladder or additional pay. It would depend on the needs of our community and availability of staff. Other 4 day school week communities said that other options have been: Churches and local organizations offering programs, other family members or neighbors, or other plans as parents/guardians make during the summer or on current staff professional development days or school off days.**
8. When is the decision taking place for the SY 24/25 calendar? **February 15th, 2024 board meeting**
9. Why did the students vote at school and not at home? **This was sent to all 4th-12th grade students by email. It was the same format that was used for our CSIP surveys last spring and that many districts have done when gathering information from students. The survey did not have to be completed at school. Students could have completed it at home or anywhere they can access their district email. Elementary teachers did review the survey with lower elementary students in case they had questions on the language. JH/HS students were reminded the survey was there and they were asked to complete it for their input. Some students chose not to complete the survey and it was not a requirement for them to do so.**
10. Did teachers get to vote as parents too? **If a staff member is a parent/guardian of a student in the district, they did get to vote on the Parent/Guardian/Patron survey and on the Staff survey to allow them to provide input on both roles.**
11. Parents are working on Mondays, how is that more family time? **Each family's/person's situation is unique. Some family members work on 5 day schedules, Some work**

evenings, nights, weekends, 4 day schedules, work from home, etc. Some older students may choose to work on the 5th day (which many surveyed thought could be a good thing). The goal would be that it gives the opportunity.

12. Children with ADHD can handle longer days? **The additional time in our draft calendar is 31 minutes each day. That is one reason we decided to not add more time to the daily schedule, to strive for balance. Staff would continue to work to provide brain breaks, recess, PE, physical/hands on learning, etc. as we do now.**
13. A patron shared a research from 6 States; Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Dakota, students fell behind though they show slowly they show in 8 years. 4 day school week students fell behind slightly academically each year. After a number of years, this academic regression proved significant. **Dr. Turner asked who conducted that research and what states it was from? The patron reported it was from Dr. Paul Thompson's (from Oregon State University) work. Dr. Turner said he was familiar with that research. Many of the states included in studies allowed a reduction of total instructional hours. Missouri currently does not allow this. Research does show when instructional hours are reduced there are measurable learning regression. Studies have also shown that when instructional hours stay the same, there were no measurable learning loss or gains. Dr. Turner again referenced the MO Department of Education study the state board is reviewing now that shows this.**
14. Will teachers use the 5th day as an AMI Day? **Right now we do not have plans to use this for an AMI day, but it could be an option to consider if needed.**
15. If we had Vo-tech students that wanted to go the 5th day, could the parents get them to school and then one of our drivers take them to Vo-tech to make up some hours? **This would be based upon need. The district is not planning to run a 5th day bus to Vo-tech due to the budgeting issues mentioned earlier and because it would be non-reimbursable miles for state funding and would take away funds that could be used for salaries, instructional supplies, food, and other resources.**
16. How will all the testing be done in a 4 day week? **Principals and teachers will review the assessment schedule to ensure all assessments are completed. They will also prioritize instructional time and use assessments that are essential.**
17. How has the longer days affected the students with ADHD, ADD, etc with their learning and medication? **Dr. Turner commented that schools that have gone to 4 day school weeks have not found this to be an issue. Medications are measured to cover times prescribed by doctors and agreed upon by parents/guardians. He added that with 31 minutes being added per day, disruption due to medication should be minimal.**
18. How many students have left to go to homeschool or private schools in switching to a 4 day week? **Dr. Turner again said this hasn't been seen to be an issue at the MO 4 day schools. One rural school reported they actually gained approximately 20 homeschool students after they adopted the 4 day school week. Those families said they valued the flexible schedule of homeschool and thought the 4 day school week allowed for some of those benefits.**

19. Were staff comments on the survey reviewed by the board and a plan made to correct?  
**All survey results have been made available and reviewed by the board. The question and answer portion of the public meeting minutes, the local surveys, the research, and the presentation that are posted on our district website are one way we are trying to make available to the public responses to comments and questions.**
20. What time would breakfast start/school open and what time will teachers start pushing students to leave breakfast? **Breakfast times have not been finalized, but they should be very similar to what we have now. Breakfast would start around 7:25 A.M. and students would go to class at approximately 7:45 A.M.**
21. Who is liable if a student is driving themselves to Vo-tech on the 5th day? Maybe a waiver could clarify this before there is an issue? **This is being reviewed. Since it would be attending on a non-school in session day, currently the students and family would be responsible for transportation in the same way they are for any time a student drives when school is not in session.**
22. Can Mr. Hartley reschedule games like Bourbon, Viburnum, ( long distance ) etc, to be earlier and on Mondays next year? **This is also being considered. We are hopeful. It may take some time (more than one school year) to work out schedules because they are often done well in advance (one-two years in advance).**
23. Will Staff members like Mrs. Alisia, Mrs. Karey, and Nurse Shelly who have to work X number of days in the summer have the option to work Mondays through the next year instead of in the summer? **Individual personnel work schedules will be reviewed with each staff member and finalized by the superintendent. Mr. Samples said he will do his best to work with staff and to hear input on hours, but student supervision coverage and orderly operation of the district must take precedence.**
24. If all of the built in snow days are not needed, will the last day of school be moved up? **Currently, no - the last day of school would stay consistent as we submit that to the state. This would allow us to not have to make up missed snow days. It also gives a commitment to our community that we are going beyond the minimum number of hours per year for our students.**
25. Will Belleview students be affected adversely? Will we lose tuition income because of a 4 day week? **Belleview students currently attend for 9th-12th grade. They have a choice between Valley R-VI and Arcadia Valley. If we adopt a 4 day calendar - Belleview parents/guardians would have a choice between a 4 day or 5 day calendar. Belleview students in K-8 currently go 152.5 days for SY 23-24. The proposed 152 - 4 day per week Valley R-VI SY 24/25 calendar may attract more Belleview students to attend Valley due to the calendars being similar. We will just have to see what occurs.**

- **Comments From Those in Attendance**

1. I would like to see low income parents from high school and elementary added to the CSIP Committee ( Also a SPED parent from each). **Any parent or guardian that would like to be a member of the CSIP committee can contact their building principal. We will do our best to accommodate who is interested because we want as much input as possible. Financial income was not considered as an area of need for being a CSIP Committee member. Our current CSIP Committee has multiple parent/guardian members from the elementary and the JH/High school. SpEd parent and input has been considered for members.**
2. If another information sheet is sent out to parents, please confirm to everyone the Vo-tech rumor ( that they are losing their math and english credits) is not true. This was dispelled on Thursday but it is still being spread in the community. **We spoke with AV Technical school. Embedded English and math credits will be available for Valley R-VI and all students for SY 24-25 no matter if we adopt a 4 or 5 day calendar. Viburnum students are on a 4 day calendar and they are eligible for those credits. AV Technical School stressed its expectations to earn those credits would remain the same with a 4 or 5 day calendar. Students must be in attendance per policy and they must complete satisfactory work. The same as the current standards.**
3. At the board meeting it was mentioned that the 5th day could be used for field trips, play day, etc, but the proposed schedule does not show this. Why? I liked that this option would still allow fun but not take away instruction time. **This is something we would consider, but as with any change, we would need to have planning and see how it works practically. We currently do not put field trip dates on our district calendar due to the variable involved and the possibility of date changes.**