

Valley R-VI School District
1/30/24 - Minutes from the 4 Day School Week Public Informational Meeting 5-6:40 P.M.

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. **How could a 4 day school week affect student Academic Performance?** Staff answered - current research shows there is not a substantial increase or decrease in student academic performance as long as the instructional time for the school year stays the same. If Valley goes to a 4 day calendar our instructional hours would stay the same.
2. **Would this improve teacher recruitment and retention in attaining teachers?** Research is showing that the 4 day school week is helping to recruit and retain teachers. Dr. Turner from Missouri State University said every state west of the Mississippi now has 4 day school calendars and states like Colorado have over 70% of their schools with 4 day school calendars. Many report it improves teacher recruitment and retention. Ex. Independence, MO is reporting their teacher applications have increased by 30% since starting a 4 day school calendar.
3. **Can we look at increasing salaries and/or four days to recruit and retain staff?** Mr. Samples stated the board is committed that the district will not cut staff salaries if we go to a 4 day school week. Mr. Samples added that the district will continue to look to increase salaries at a fiscally responsible rate depending on state, local and federal revenue, but a 4 day school week would give our district a recruiting/retention tool without raising costs. He mentioned our district is very state and federal funds dependent. This could help our district to better prepare during hard economic times.
4. **Will this still make us competitive with other schools when they all go four days as well?** Answer from the committee is it may be better for us to be one of the first districts in our region to go to this rather than one of the last. There is no guarantee what other districts will do. What we do not want is to be a school with a lower teacher salary schedule and higher number of work day schedules. With 168 schools in the state that have done this, we can learn a lot from them and be forward thinking in improving our school.
5. **What is CSIP?** Mrs. Carr explained that CSIP stands for Continual School Improvement Plan. It is a plan that the district is continually updating and that the district is mandated to update every five years. Last year a committee of stakeholders reviewed community surveys and school data to develop twelve CSIP goals. One of our district's top goals (CSIP Goal 6) is for our district to find ways to improve recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff.
6. **How will this affect bus drivers? Feel like it will cut bus driver pay?** Mr. Samples said the district has committed it will not cut the pay of staff. Bus drivers may have to work on the 5th day or work additional hours in a day to work the same amount of hours per week.
7. **Why are buses not more full with students? Has the district considered cutting back on the buses/routes?** The district did cut one bus route for SY 23-24. The bus routes are developed by looking at

ridership lists for an area. Not all students ride each day, but we must be prepared for all students on a ridership list to ride the bus each day.

8. **If we go to a 4 day school week how will this affect bus routes - specifically students being picked up earlier and dropped off earlier?** Mrs. Boyer commented - the current draft of a 4 day school week calendar has school starting at 7:45 A.M. this would not change pick up times for 5 of the 6 bus routes. The transportation department is talking about ways to cut 5-10 minutes to not affect the time on that route. Total time on the bus for students should stay the same or similar. Mr. Samples added the current 4 day calendar draft would have school dismissing at 3:32 P.M. buses would leave at approx. 3:40 P.M. Drop off times would be 20-30 minutes later in the evening than they are currently.
9. **Will starting school earlier or later possibly cause learning deficits?** Dr. Turner from MO State University said there is research that starting JH/High School times later does help student achievement, but that would be starting later than 8:00 A.M. This isn't feasible for most schools due to offering extracurricular and other after school activities and not getting students home later in the evening. The difference between starting at 7:56 A.M. our current start time and 7:45 A.M. would not affect student learning. Starting school at 7:45 A.M. does not show a measurable difference with research for elementary age students.
There has not been research on the school day ending after 3:00 P.M. affecting student achievement, but again schools have to think about many factors on school start and end times ex. Bus times, extracurricular times, community times, staff report times, etc.
10. **How will this affect the high school students that drive or not?** Mrs. Tiefenanauer commented that most drivers get here either earlier or right at school start time. We do not anticipate starting 11 minutes early to affect student drivers once students and the community adjust.
11. **Why do we not offer insurance for teachers and do they pay the difference?** Mr. Samples and a School Board Member both commented the district does offer a board paid insurance option. Teachers and staff also have the opportunity to buy up for additional insurance options.
12. **Would this mean adding five minutes to each JH/HS class period for the school day?** High School teachers said this is a possible outcome, but it has not been finalized. The daily schedule would be adjusted to add instructional time to each class during the school day in some way.
13. **How will this affect paraprofessionals?** Para educators would either use the 5th day for work hours (ex. Possible daycare if needed or tutoring) or work extended hours on the 4 days. They could use the fifth day to use for their teacher degrees, PD days, etc.
14. **Have we considered janitors driving the buses?** Mr. Samples responded with yes, this has been considered.

15. **How will this affect Vo-tech students and their instructional time?**
Approximately 30 minutes of instructional time would be added to the four days they attend. Mr. Samples mentioned that Viburnum already does this and that Clearwater will be doing this next year. South Iron is also considering this. All of those schools attend AV Tech. like our students.
16. **Would this cause students to choose between having the fifth day off, or choosing to go to vo-tech? Could they still earn embedded math and ELA credits? And would this keep students with IEPs from attending Vo-Tech?** Mrs. Byers commented, this would not affect IEP students from attending the Tech school. The students IEP team would still decide on the students IEP minutes and attending Vo-Tech. Other HS teachers answered that if math or ELA credits are embedded in Vo-Tech courses our students would still qualify for the credits. Students would not have to choose between having to attend school the 5th day to attend Vo-Tech.
17. **How would this affect after school tutoring?** Teacher answered - This would depend on the teacher and the need. Tutoring could still happen after school, but it could possibly also happen on the 5th day if that works for the students and the teachers. Mrs. Phares commented that the JH/HS has discussed the possibility of Saturday School (for attendance remediation) moving to 5th day school and offering 5th day tutoring.
18. **Will a four day week affect homework?** No - the teachers and school policy on homework are not anticipated to change.
19. **If the teachers are struggling to teach enough now, “ on grade level” stuff now to be able to enter grades. How are they going to get enough within four days? What does the extra hour do?**
Teachers struggle at times (like all of us). An advantage would be teachers would have a 5th day for planning, grading, etc. Mrs. McCoy mentioned that she is often at school on Sundays planning lessons and grading. She said she would be thankful to be able to do this a 5th day and not take Sundays away from family. Teachers mentioned that they would adjust the pacing in their curriculum to match the instructional time per day. The scope and the sequence of the curriculum would likely be the same. Each class and subject has its own specific Missouri Learning Standards. Some classes would benefit from longer class time; others will need to adjust into smaller instructional segments. Again, it was mentioned that there are 168 Missouri schools doing this now, so our teachers can collaborate with others that are doing this now and find best practices.
20. **How would this affect the learning/curriculum/instruction of our younger elementary students?** Mrs. Gilliam shared comments on her kindergarten curriculum. She said in the years she has taught kindergarten, she believed she would be able to adjust the curriculum and the instructional time would work well for kindergarten students.

21. **If 10% of the students struggle, how will they stay ahead with the rest?** Teachers mentioned again data, research based instruction and interventions will still be offered. It would open up the possibility of improved lesson planning, more consistent PD for teachers, and possibly 5th day tutoring options, again if there are teachers available and students with the need that can attend.
22. **Will Title I classes take away from core instruction time if we go to a 4 day calendar?** Mrs. Yount responded that Title I Intervention instruction would not change with the 4 day calendar. Students would still receive services and core instruction.
23. **Could the 5th day be used for Saturday school to make up attendance, tutoring, etc. would we provide that or have parents bring them on the day for that?** Yes, the JH/HS is considering using the 5th day for Saturday school. Transportation would be based on need and driver availability.
24. **Have there been studies for how GPA has been affected for four day vs five day calendar?** Dr. Turner referred to the recent DESE (Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) study. It showed no significant difference in learning achievement between 4 day and 5 day calendars if instructional hours stayed the same or similar.
25. **Would the school provide virtual tutoring?** Teachers replied this hasn't been discussed, but it could be considered if enough parents/students reported the need.
26. **Could teachers use Career Ladder for 5th day child care hours if needed?** Mr. Samples commented that our district offers Career Ladder now as a way for our teachers to earn extra income while doing approved activities to improve instruction and student services. It is a current strategy to attract and retain high quality teachers. 5th day child care qualifying would depend on being approved by our district Career Ladder Committee and the state Career Ladder guidelines.
27. **What are options for those in need of 5th day food?** Mrs. Wright - elementary secretary commented - The elks lodge provides back pack food for students on the last day of each week. Mrs. Wright's church and other local churches/organizations provide free food for those in need. The school is also discussing options if the community wants a 5th day meal sent home. Stephanie Nipper - head high school cook is also participating in the calendar committee to hear questions/needs and provide input. We will continue to look at our student's needs and look to provide options to ensure our students' needs are met.
28. **How will this affect students with learning disabilities and 504 plans?** Mrs. Byers - SpEd Director and 504 Coordinator commented - IEPs and 504 plans would remain the same. The district would still provide both services and the IEP team and 504 teams (which include the parents/guardians) would still work together to develop and approve the

plans. This can also possibly improve our services for students with IEPs and 504 plans as we recruit and retain certified and well trained Special Education Teachers.

29. **Can a 4 day school week be up for a vote from patrons during an election or does the Board of Education decide this?** Mr. Samples commented that this is decided by a school board vote. The school board is a seven member body elected by district patrons. The board did want to seek the community's input through the surveys (a chance to vote) and the public meetings. The surveys of Parents/Guardians/Patrons showed 82% approval of a 4 day school calendar. The staff and students surveys showed 90% approval of a 4 day school calendar.

30. **Is the Ava School District on a four day week?** Dr. Turner replied with yes they are.

- Closing - Mr. Jason Samples - Superintendent Valley R-VI
 - Thanked everyone for attending and reminded we have another public information meeting this Saturday 2/3/24 from 10-11 A.M.

Valley R-VI Calendar Committee Members:

Name	Job Title/Group You Are Representing	Name	Job Title/Group You Are Representing
Maggie Carr	Elementary Teacher	Chris Byers	Special Service Director
Alyssa Harbison	Elementary Teacher	Michelle Province	School Nurse
Kelly Sadler	Preschool Teacher	Mary Johnston	Custodian/Maintenance Staff Member
Caleb Tiefenauer	Elementary Principal	Stephanie Nipper	Food Service Staff Member
Katie Tiefenauer	JH/HS Teacher	Tiffany Moyers	Paraprofessional Member
Jarah McGinness	JH/HS Teacher	Alisia Wright	Secretary Staff Member
Jamie Warden	JH/HS Principal	Nicky Boyer	Transportation Department