



# Scheduling Committee School Board Presentation

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March 20th, 2024



## Scheduling Committee:

Joshua Forkey	Randy LaCasse
Samantha Dean	Jennifer Schaeffer
Kristen Doherty	Elaine Verne
Jennah Dussault	Danielle Karcz
Tom Koch	Dana Zulager

*work began Sept. 2023, weekly meetings*

# Why Change the Schedule?

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## Blocks Themselves

- Multiple studies show the maximum attention span of a 16 year old is ~48 minutes
- Multiple studies point to block schedules having a slight positive-negligible academic impact for students in the top 75%. For students in the bottom 25%, block schedules have a detrimental effect
- There are benefits to blocks though, including social-emotional benefits

*Committee reviewed educational research about schedule and high school students, and also gathered information about schedules that other schools use*

## Grades/Achievement

- Students achieved grades of D+ or lower in block classes at a rate 19.4% higher than their Skinny period over the past two years
- In other words, across the school there are 10 more failures each block compared to Skinny period

*Tech Department pulled anonymized grade reports comparing block periods with Period 2 which is daily and shorter (hence “skinny”)*

# Why Change the Schedule? (cont.)

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- **Teachers** expressed that student attention for 94 minutes was nearly impossible and that seeing students 2.5 times a week was not often enough.
- **Students** expressed that they could not maintain attention in 94 minute classes and that they understood information better in shorter classes.
- **Parents** expressed that some shortening of classes may be in order and that students may be adversely affected by long class lengths. Many wanted to know teacher opinions.

Initial Surveys October 2023

Purpose of Committee: Evaluate how our current schedule is working and make proposal for new schedule to address any shortcomings

## Variables that were taken into account:

- AM & PM SST scheduling
- More equitable distribution of classes for SST students, while still maintaining only missing six total classes between AM & PM
- Keep RAM
- See students more than 2 times a week
- Balance necessity of blocks with the issues of student attention and achievement in long classes
- Block days more than once a week
- Days when all classes meet (called “skinny” day in the past) more than once a week
- Shared resources between buildings (currently Music)
- No lunches over 30 minutes
- Meeting the state hours requirement
- Not changing the total amount of classes (7)
- Maintaining consistency of schedule each day of the week, planned out at the start of the year for Special Ed and Admin meeting purposes (and for families planning doctor appointments *etc.*)
- School start and end time not shifting
- CBA (teacher contract) considerations (preps, lunches, *etc.*)

# Proposed Schedule

## Mondays & Fridays: Bookend Days

- All classes with shorter 45min. periods

Teachers will see all students to start and end the week

## Tuesday-Thursday: Block Days

- Four classes ea. day with longer 68min. Blocks, one block drops in the AM and PM. Period 4 is every day for consistent lunches and SST timing

Teachers can plan for science labs, AP practice tests, or classroom activities that require longer period

Weeks with holiday or snow day, Administration can adjust the bookend days accordingly

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bookend Day	Block Day	Block Day	Block Day	Bookend Day
<b>Period 1</b> 7:30-8:15	<b>Period 1</b> 7:30-8:38	<b>Period 2</b> 7:30-8:38	<b>Period 1</b> 7:30-8:38	<b>Period 1</b> 7:30-8:15
<b>Period 2</b> 8:18-9:03	<b>Period 2</b> 8:41-9:49	<b>Period 3</b> 8:41-9:49	<b>Period 3</b> 8:41-9:49	<b>Period 2</b> 8:18-9:03
<b>Period 3</b> 9:06-9:51				<b>Period 3</b> 9:06-9:51
<b>RAM</b> 9:54-10:29	<b>RAM</b> 9:52-10:31	<b>RAM</b> 9:52-10:31	<b>RAM</b> 9:52-10:31	<b>RAM</b> 9:54-10:29
<b>Period 4 (Daily)/Lunch</b> Bookend Days 10:32-11:46 { <b>1st Lunch</b> 10:32-10:58 <b>Class</b> 10:32-11:17 <b>Class</b> 11:01-11:46 <b>2nd Lunch</b> 11:20-11:46 }		<b>Period 4 (Daily)/Lunch</b> Block Days 10:34-11:48 { <b>1st Lunch</b> 10:34-11:00 <b>Class</b> 10:34-11:19 <b>Class</b> 11:03-11:48 <b>2nd Lunch</b> 11:22-11:48 }		
<b>Period 5</b> 11:49-12:34	<b>Period 5</b> 11:51-12:59	<b>Period 6</b> 11:51-12:59	<b>Period 5</b> 11:51-12:59	<b>Period 5</b> 11:49-12:34
<b>Period 6</b> 12:37-1:22	<b>Period 6</b> 1:02-2:10	<b>Period 7</b> 1:02-2:10	<b>Period 7</b> 1:02-2:10	<b>Period 6</b> 12:37-1:22
<b>Period 7</b> 1:25-2:10				<b>Period 7</b> 1:25-2:10

# Why this schedule?

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- See students 4x a week, every week — all at beginning and end of week
  - Consistent, quality face-to-face time with teachers (especially important for subjects like Math and Music where repetitive instruction is valuable)
  - With unexpected days off, students will still see their teachers more than once a week
- Has blocks, has days with each class, taking the best of both to meet students' needs
- SST has access to RAM and is more equitable between AM/PM
- More consistent daily lunches
  - Healthier for students
  - Improved logistics for food service and possible cost savings

# Feedback on the Proposed Schedule

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- **Teachers** strongly supported the schedule with 65% voting in favor of it. Many applauded the consistency and shorter classes. Critical feedback expressed concern over loss of prep time.
- Administration, Special Education, and Guidance showed 100% support.
- **Students** supported the schedule with 58% voting in favor (166 out of 268 voted).
- **Parents** (64% in favor) expressed some concerns about homework, but also praised the schedule for consistency, shorter class, consideration of SST, and more efficient class time.

**Vote/Feedback February 2024**