

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Ashby - Pepperell - Townsend, Massachusetts

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
North Middlesex Regional High School

PRESENT

Susan Robbins	Member, Townsend
Jonna Clermont	Member, Pepperell
Brian Edmonds	Member, Pepperell (via remote participation)
Crystal Epstein	Member, Ashby (via remote participation)
Randee Rusch	Member, At Large
Robert Templeton	Member, Townsend

**ALSO
PRESENT**

Joan Landers	Superintendent of Schools
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ABSENT

Anne Adams	Member, Pepperell
William Hackler	Member, Townsend
Michael Morgan	Member, At Large

1. The work session was called to order at 4:04 PM.

WORK SESSION

1. Brainstorming

The Committee began with brain storming their concerns and goals relative to the high school bell schedule

B. Edmonds – Concern with # of math credits & students spending 25% of their high school career in math.

R. Rusch – Concern with schedule crunch for juniors due to the current schedule

R. Templeton – If fix math schedule problems, do we lose innovation. Also concerned about gaps in education due to current schedule

J. Clermont – Concern with # of courses students would take if 8 period rotating schedule were implemented and # of exams students would have

Susan Robbins summarized the concerns and goals:

Concerns:

- Math – 10 credits/25% year
- IMM current – Jr. schedule
- Gaps in schedule

- If fix IMM may lose innovation
- Any subject “forced” 25% year/high school
- Concern over selection of IMM model

Goals

- Fix courses for the amount of time
- Address gaps (improve learning efficiency)
- # courses (8) too high at once/# of exams – max 5 courses?
- Social/emotional well being
- Class choice – more options
- Continuity – no disruption (2014-2015)
- Retain innovations in programs
- No subject 25% of schedule – unless student choice
- Academic achievement
- Maximize time on learning
- Timing of change (short term: 2014-14 (particularly jrs.; long term: 2015+)

2. The Committee next discussed their top concerns.

- J. Clermont - # of courses
- B. Edmonds – no should should be 25% of schedule
- A. Adams (via email)– continuity/no disruption
- R. Rusch – address gaps
- S. Robbins – social/emotional
- R. Templeton - innovation

Additional comments by Committee Members:

- R. Rusch - leave solution to administration. The School Committee should set direction but academic implementation should be responsibility of administration
- R. Templeton – need to balance what students want and what they need. District is responsible to educate the entire student population
- S. Robbins – Can we address the gaps in the current 4 X 4 schedule?
- R. Templeton – Need to give administration what we feel is max. # courses
- J. Landers – Need data on success of IMM (results from assessment tests)

3. The Committee discussed possible solutions/suggestions:

- Hire teachers to help alleviate scheduling gaps
- Provide stipend to teachers to rework IMM for 4 X 4
- Offer successive to students as freshmen, for example to alleviate gaps (ex. Spanish 1 & Spanish 2)
- Create 4 block all courses AB or keep 4x4 block and create an AB course like IMM/Science that runs for one block through both semesters.
- Phase in scheduling
- Different approach for Grades 9 & 10 and 11 & 12

4. The Committee discussed next steps:

Direct Supt. to come up with a solution that addresses the goals of the school committee

Randee Rusch left the meeting at 5:15 PM

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jonna Clermont and seconded by Robert Templeton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Landry, Secretary