

SIAC Meeting Minutes
School Improvement Advisory Committee
January 9, 2017
6:30pm – 8:00pm @ Lincoln Media Center

Agenda: Suzanne Horak, Julie Stout, JoAnn Spenner, Jacqueline Spenner, Heather Hora, Terry Engelken, Andrea Pingol, Carlton Skubal, Beth Moravec, Adam Miller, Maggie Voss, Eric Turner, John Carter, Curt Mayer, Tara Pickens, Teresa Beenblossom, Cindy Lebsack, Kathy Stender, Erik Buchholz, Sarah Nacos, Allison Hippen, Chad Hippen, Jeff Dicks, Steve Green, Emily Marek, Connie Svenby, Veta Thode, Alexis Turner

- Review and discuss systematic delivery of instruction-
Review notes from data review meeting - Block schedule was one discussion item

Schedule overview

MS- 58 minute blocks- 6 full blocks and one lunch period- some courses are a period long have 13 periods each term for 4 terms.

HS - 85 minute blocks - 4 blocks each term for 4 terms.

Groups listed and shared positive aspects of WHS block schedule:

- Plenty of time for instruction and assistance
- Fewer courses to worry about, only have to focus on 4 classes
- Time for hands on activities (labs, projects...) -2
- More time to work in class
- Transitioning seems easier at HS
- Homework more manageable
- Better for band and choir
- More time to be engaged in class and get things done
- Can get a lot done if use time wisely
- Works well with Kirkwood
- Lots of review games (Kahoot and Quizzes) in class
- Start homework in the classroom with the teacher
- Brain breaks are given - more activities vs. lecture
- Flexibility with scheduling
- Accelerates academics quickly (for college courses)
- MS positives were: Good time, or more time to take electives and allows movement

Groups listed questions/concerns of block schedule:

- Does Middle School schedule work out for those that take HS courses?
- Does Kirkwood schedule work with HS schedule?
- How are blocks broken down by instruction?
- Would having Math all year, similar to MS, be helpful to students are behind?
- What happens when you get into class you don't enjoy?

- What do other schools our size do?
- Is it harder to schedule if in band and choir? 2
- How does block work for Special Ed, EL, At-risk? Do they get what they want? 2
- Would it be beneficial to students if HS and MS schedules matched?
- 8th grade marching band students, very hard to make transition schedule work
- If not in a subject not prepared for ACT
- Is block schedule hard for Math and core subjects?
- Are students losing instructional time because of review and transition times in a block.
- What does research say block vs. 7 or 8 period day?
- What do you do with students who struggle to stay focused for that amount of time?
- 4 x 4 block may limit what classes are available to take a certain block
- Is it true students can not take a core subject (like math) for a year or more?
- Would students like 8 homework assignments vs. 4?
- Easier to remember assignments with only 4 classes
- Easier to transport homework if only 4 classes
- Do you have too much time in classroom to work? (student response was you notice more in 9th and 10th grade classes, but less in upper level classes)
- WRAP students request to attend alternative setting because block is too long
- Are there some classes that block works well for and other it doesn't?
- Do ALL teachers allow for guided practice in classroom?
- Are students able to get all their class requests?
- Is MS schedule confusing for kids?

- Set future meeting dates

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 @ 6:30 @ Lincoln Media Center

- Final Questions - question about Professional development schedule