

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments were accepted by online form submission from 12:00 p.m. on Friday, September 22, 2023, through 12:00 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2023.

The following comments followed all the posted guidelines listed on the form and below.

- One comment per person.
- Comments are limited to 1,000 characters per person.
- The Board will not hear charges or complaints against any District employee.

First Name	Last Name	Association with BSD	Comments:
Jennifer	Hoffman	Staff	Hello, The middle school schedule is not working because there are too many transitions for the students. It's beyond exhausting. Please consider making every class the same amount of time, regardless of the class. If the class is important enough to offer, then its important enough to have the same amount of minutes as every other class, this includes math, science, social studies, English Language Arts, PE/Health, and electives. Please consider having advisory work be a part of another class. Middle school kids need SEL, but they don't buy into the lessons as they are presented now. If they were integrated into the regular schedule, kids would take it more seriously.
Perry	Waugh	Student	I am a member of Sunset Mock Trial. Our club has existed at Sunset High school for more than 20 years. Our club is run by real lawyers to spend their valuable time volunteering to teach students about the law and train them to compete in Mock Trial tournaments. Because our coaches are working individuals our club must exist after 5 PM, and school policy is restricting our club from operating at Sunset whatsoever. We request the school board help us find a solution for our historic club.

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The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, veterans' status, or because of a perceived or actual association with any other persons within these protected classes.

Franco	Meraz	Staff	As a middle school science teacher, I am concerned about the direction we are going in regards to the work being done on the middle school schedule, as it is heavily pushing for having every other day electives once again. If this change were to take effect, students would not have time they would otherwise have in elective classes that heavily support SEL and belonging for many students. Elective classes are incredibly important and of value to our students now and in their futures. Making this change would also be incredibly inequitable to our staff, as elective teachers would be faced with an increased load while being sent a signal that their subjects is not valuable to students. I urge the involved parties to look into alternative scheduling methods rather than leaning onto an outdated schedule that has been already moved away from.
Jennifer	Plaza	Staff	Hello, I am a middle school science teacher with the district. I have strong objections to the proposed schedule for several reasons. Firstly, the district promotes social/emotional learning. I suggest that simply stating that SEL is important is not as useful as showing it by valuing our elective teachers as much as our core teachers. Taking a class where you explore how to express yourself in a creative way with a well trained and skilled professional is an incredibly valuable use of time and resources. It cannot be that hard to create a schedule where core teachers teach on a block schedule and elective teachers are able to teach every day. Why are we making a schedule that prioritizes one aspect of a student while shunting the rest? Why are we not valuing all of our educators? Why is this a teacher vs teacher issue? Spend the time to make a schedule that prioritizes all of your educators as well as the needs of your students. Electives help our students grow! Value our electives!
April	Powers	Parent/ Guardian	About the MVP/OpenUp curriculum used for the AGS math sequence. With this curriculum, teachers “facilitate” “intentional grappling” as students are presented with conceptual problems and are expected to “discover”/ teach themselves higher math concepts. This causes confusion/frustration and does not develop mastery of the material. District math scores have plummeted since this curriculum was adopted - starting BEFORE the pandemic and CONTINUING while other districts have started to improve. In the May 2023 Westview HS report, the data showed a drop in 11th grade math proficiency from 55% (18-19) to 48% to 36% in (21-22). Neither the principal nor any school board member mentioned this statistic nor asked about it. This is unacceptable. Students need access to direct instruction and this curriculum does not provide it. The MVP curriculum was due to be reevaluated in 2020 and I have not seen any report indicating this was done. This curriculum is failing students and needs reevaluation.
Cecily	Capistran	Staff	I am a science teacher at Meadow Park & granted longer periods makes it easier to teach science, but I have often wondered why Math and Sci have taken a higher priority over other subjects. 1 of the things that is amazing about Meadow is its programs, ex. incredible band, choir, drama & arts programs, plus sports. I think that is something that makes Meadow really special. Like seeing a student shine playing the drums who really struggled to even be in the science classroom. As a parent I have taken every opportunity to bring my kids to the performances at Meadow & I hope they will have the opportunity to be in similar programs at their schools. Arts, sports & other electives add so much to developing well rounded children. When we are looking at SEL, trauma care, brain dev and supporting the whole child, one of the first places we should look is supporting our electives. So please support our elective teachers in enhancing these incredible programs in all schools. Short advisory. Please follow my Google Doc link for the chart of my schedule suggestion: https://docs.google.com/document/d/19GsYttixU0cqzmtzEKavCbo26RmWyjlj0PsYGxsmvZU/edit?usp=sharing Elective teachers should also have a sane and happy working environment. Their teaching is just as important as the “core” content areas - sometimes even more if you take into account for SEL and students with special needs or ELD who might have limited English or other issues where electives are the only time they thrive and feel proud. Please

			don't damage that by creating inequity in the teacher's schedule and not allowing everyone the time necessary to create a quality curriculum. Here's a possible schedule solution - someone told me they do this at the high school already? Why not at the middle school level too? Thanks for listening.
Kailie	DeBolt	Staff	<p>Hello Esteemed Members of The Board,</p> <p>I will ask you to see and understand the immense value that your elective teachers create and provide for our students. We are often the classes where many of our students find their only successes, the reason they show up to school. Everyday we are teaching invaluable skills and knowledge and should not be treated as second class citizens by the district. I assume that as our district and community leaders you seek to have the best and brightest elective teachers work with us. However, if you choose to recommend a schedule that disvalues our expertise, value, and time that will not be the case.</p> <p>Please inform Teaching and Learning that there are many good schedule options that exist (some favorites of mine include the 6x4 or a blended block). The choice to try and rush this process without proper consideration for what is actually best for our students' rounded/full education, not just what a few loud voices are shouting to go back to, is wrong.</p>
Jennifer	Brinkerhoff	Parent/ Guardian	Unlimited YouTube access on school Chromebooks is hurting our students. At our home, we put limits on screen time, but we know our kids watch YouTube during classes at school. They turn off the sound and just read captions on the videos. One tab has their school work and the next tab over has YouTube and the temptation to switch back and forth is strong. We have discussions at home about this, but it still continues. I know teachers occasionally have students watch a YouTube video for educational purposes, but it seems like leaving YouTube available 24/7 is hurting students and their learning more than an occasional video is helping them. To start, could YouTube be blocked from midnight - 6 am? Blocking more during the school day would be a great next step. Parents all over the district would love some help with this. We can control Internet usage on devices we purchase but we can't put parental controls on school district managed devices. Please put some restrictions in place. Thanks!
Kayla	Erne	Parent/ Guardian	Electives allow students like my son to pursue their interests and branch out and try new things. My son struggles to enjoy school as it is, removing an elective from his schedule will be removing something he enjoys learning about and will be counterproductive on his attitude towards school.
Danielle	Chandrasekaran	Parent/ Guardian	Please keep middle school schedules as they are currently!
Kayla	Dietz	Parent/ Guardian	Not sure what's going on

Laura E	Hayes	Parent/ Guardian	Hello, I understand the board is considering limiting electives for middle school students. I would like to advocate for not doing that, as I think having enrichment opportunities beyond the core subjects AND time for physical activity is incredibly important for a well rounded education and middle school experience. My son really enjoys having technology, spanish AND an opportunity to get out of a chair and move around during PE! I'd hate to see any one of those taken away from him. Thank you for taking this into consideration.
Melanie	Tongren	Parent/ Guardian	Please do not change to schedule to allow for less electives. My child takes band and Spanish and BOTH are vital to his growth!!! I can't imagine his life without either. Thank you for hearing my opinion
Ursa	Ficker	Parent/ Guardian	I am the parent of a sixth grade student and a teacher. I asked my child for her opinion. Lunch time is far too short. She cannot get her lunch and eat it before time is over. At this age socialization is very important, so she and others skip eating to socialize. Lunch should be 60 minutes, including passing time. I agree students should have 2 electives. But the first priority must be core classes. 60 min class times with fewer transitions are better. Consistent class length is best. An AB type schedule might be the best choice, even though they are annoying. Having each class every day is ideal but isn't possible. My child is not allowed to bring her backpack to some classes. Passing times do not allow for stops at her locker to replenish supplies or switch materials. With the large number of classes each day, balancing homework and remaining organized is difficult for my child. An absence means missing all classes and needing more makeup info. I agree with ending Advisory periods.
Valerie	S	Parent Guardian	We need to keep the middle school schedule as it is now. The children need to have PE every day but they also need to have their 2 electives. This lets them have something that they get to choose to go to. They learn how to do other things besides reading, writing, history and math. Without tech, art, choir, band, drama and a language they are not getting a full education. Children should be able to have 2 classes where they get to make the choice in what they learn. They are learning skills to help them when they grow up. I don't have a music or art job but I enjoy doing both as an adult. If you take the electives or even just one away you will have even more children not want to be in school. Please keep the schedule as is. I am really not sure why you are even considering this change. We all grew up with electives. What gives you the right to take it away from my kids!
Eric	Millar	Parent/ Guardian	In a recent newsletter Vose Elementary claimed that the school would be expanding it's Dual Language program to every kindergarten classroom with or without the consent of the parents. What exactly does this mean and how does it effect the teachers and students that are already within the school? Will teachers that are not bilingual be removed for the lack of that singular skill and without regard for any other metric of their performance? Will students who are not bilingual in their homes fall behind because parents will not be able to support them in their education as effectively? Will it expand to other grades? According to Toshiko Maurizio, in an interview with OPB in February of this year, there are over 100 languages spoken in the district. Will the students that do not have English or Spanish as their main language be expecting to be tri-lingual due to this choice by the school? Thank for the opportunity to comment.

Danette	Foster	Staff	I would like to encourage the board and superintendent to fully embrace the recommendations for changes to the middle school schedule. As a Language Arts teacher, I know first hand the impact that having less than forty-five minutes per day (some days less than forty) has had on my students' ability to read and write at grade level. This schedule, coupled with the issues brought on by the pandemic has decimated the learning in Language Arts classes. Add on top of that the vast numbers of students (over 180) that we have as our total case load and it has become inevitable that our students' reading ability has suffered. This is a scheduling problem that MUST be corrected. Thank you for making sure that these recommendations do not get swept under the rug. They are what our students deserve so that they can thrive in the future.
G	C	Parent/ Guardian	Please keep current schedule : each student has two electives and PE everyday
Jordan	Beck	Staff	As an elective teacher, I plead with the board to recommend that elective teacher caseloads, and number of preps, are the same as other teachers. My colleagues with longer tenures have shared horror stories of YEARS with 300+ students and 10 preps - while other teachers had 90 students total, and 3 or four classes. As I understand it - this was one of the reason the schedule was changed to our current one. Any system that allows for a single teacher to be serving 300+ students is terrible for kids. Relationships are the backbone of a teacher's practice, and larger caseloads would decimate our ability to create academically rigorous spaces where students feel believed in and have a sense of belonging. Elective classes are incredibly valuable to students developmentally, socially, and academically. I beg you to ensure that the schedule that is selected guarantees parity between teacher's caseloa
Kala	Ott	Staff	I am an English teacher at a middle school in the district. I am extremely happy to hear the schedule is under review and will be changed. HOWEVER, that does not mean we revert back to our previous schedule that tripled the caseload of elective teachers. This is not equitable and will lead to the loss of so many amazing arts teachers we have. Kids need access to those classes just as much as they need access to any core content. Take more time. Explore more options. Recognize the reason the reading skills in the district are failing is because of Covid AND the districts marriage to Lucy Calkins material. Elective teachers do not deserve to take the fall for those reasons. This process seems rushed and that is frustrating to hear when there are other options out there!
Heather	Hutton	Staff	As a 6th grade math teacher at Mt. View, I have concerns about the middle school schedule and the math classes currently being taught. Every Beaverton student is in an advanced math class, even if they are on an IEP for math. AGS 1 for all was piloted pre-Covid in one middle school when our class periods were 80+ minutes long and we offered math intervention classes for struggling students. It was implemented district wide post Covid on the new schedule, with no math intervention offered for struggling students. Math periods are now 58 or 65 mins long, so we teach more content with less time. The majority of our 8th graders must retake AGS 1 in high school because they don't pass it in 8th grade. It's demoralizing, frustrating and leaves kids thinking they can't do math. It's not that they can't do math, it's that so much content has been cut out they have huge holes in their math education that cannot be filled simply by retaking a class they weren't proficient in the first time.
Sara	Groat	Staff	As a middle school teacher of 19 years, currently at Meadow Park, I am concerned by the current middle school schedule. Losing teaming has meant losing the community of care and support that teachers relied on to work to meet the needs of their students; academically, socially and emotionally. A teaming model should be prioritized to create a community of care and belonging that prioritizes student and teacher well being, especially given the challenges that we are seeing post pandemic. I urge that you truly look at the middle school schedule from an equity lens. And

			simultaneously take action steps toward Educational Equity policy JBB. How will you ensure that my students at Meadow Park have access to a high quality education, and their subgroup membership does not determine their success? Academic and behavior data I have seen, the common middle school schedule has contributed to widening the access, opportunity and expectation gaps for Meadow Park students, instead of closing them.
Susan	B.	Staff	<p>I can work with almost any schedule as long as it is equitable for both students and staff: equitable course options/class sizes/class lengths/case loads etc.</p> <p>I agree with & support suggestions 1-6. With suggestion 7 (continue to offer 2 electives - not necessarily every day) I have some reservations. I can do every day or every other day if that is what every other class does. However, I never want to go back to the time when I had 4 preps, 12 classes and over 400 students -so many that I had to pay for 2 separate online subscriptions! With suggestion 8 (consider whether a common middle school is equitable), I guess I'm in the minority on this one. I liked the fact that no matter where you lived, you could expect certain core classes & certain electives. It's fine if individual schools want to offer special classes IN ADDITION TO the basics or tweak the schedule to meet their needs but I never thought it was fair that students could take drama at some schools, but not others.</p>
Nancy	Bolton	Parent/ Guardian	<p>We understand that the school board is considering reducing the number of electives available for middle school kids. My kids go to Whitford Middle School. When my son first went to Whitford, he was so quiet and shy, and we worried that he wouldn't find a safe space at school. But, he came home from theater class one day and announced that he was joining the school play. He took theater class for two years, learning to speak up for himself, and finding a place to belong. We never expected him to take a theater class. He was able to explore his interests because he had two elective options each semester. Electives support my kids mental health and allow them to do better in the more academic areas of school. Please don't make any changes to the middle school elective program. The current structure is working. Electives are making a huge positive difference in my kids lives.</p>
Romina	Tobias	Parent/ Guardian	<p>I think it's important for kids to have electives since it gives them time to have funner subjects while still learning plus some parents can't afford to have them in after school activities so what if they have a passion for music,Art,drama,or the fact that some kids only have P.E .as their only excercise.</p>
Lea	Molczan	Parent/ Guardian	<p>As a 24 year veteran middle school teacher, I would like to address our current schedule. I urge the board the board to implement the changes suggested by the independent study, beginning with team teaching. Teaming is at the heart of the middle school philosophy. When a group of teachers can share a group of students, we are able to create bonds with those students and their families. We can come together regularly to discuss students' needs and provide extra support throughout the year. The second change is the length of class time and number of periods, especially for Language Arts and Social Studies. Right now we are transitioning every 38-42 minutes and it is extremely difficult. Just as we are getting settled into our routine of mini-lessons and then work time, it is time to pack up and move once again. The level of anxiety among teachers and students has increased significantly. For the sake of the emotional well-being of everyone involved, PLEASE change our schedule!</p>
Aliyah	Taylor-Hershel	Staff	<p>Staff CANNOT COLLABORATE/PLAN-meaning NO support for struggling students in the best ways possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Math/science class periods are now 58 or 65 minutes, they BLOCK but noone else can. -NO math intervention is offered-all are placed in the same math regardless of need.

			<p>-Many of our 8th graders must retake AGS 1 in high school because they don't pass it in 8th grade. It's demoralizing, frustrating and leaves kids thinking they can't do math- they ha-ve huge holes in their math education that cannot be filled simply by retaking a class they weren't proficient in the first time.</p> <p>Language Arts, Social Studies, PE & electives have 37/42 mins</p> <p>-Workload has increased absurdly from 85ish students on a caseload, now 110ish, not counting Advisory students. Language arts & social studies teachers have it much worse.</p> <p>-Kids spend an unhealthy amount of time in the hallways, leading to disruptions NO NONE has time to restoratively handle</p> <p>EQUITY does not mean THE SAME "COMMON" experience. ENOUGH.</p>
Devon	Rigsby	Student	I am the President of Sunset Mock Trial. Our club has existed at Sunset High school for more than 20 years. Our club is run by real lawyers who spend their valuable time volunteering to teach students about the law and train them to compete in Mock Trial tournaments. Because our coaches are working individuals our club must exist after 5 PM, and school policy is restricting our club from operating at Sunset whatsoever. We request the school board help us find a solution for our historic club.
Simon	Abraham	Student	I am a member of Sunset Mock Trial. Our club has existed at Sunset High school for more than 20 years. Our club is run by real lawyers, who spend their valuable time volunteering to teach students about the law and train them to compete in Mock Trial tournaments. Because our coaches are working individuals our club must exist after 5 PM, and school policy is restricting our club from operating at Sunset whatsoever. We request the school board help us find a solution for our historic club.
Khyati	Ruparel	Student	I am a member of Sunset Mock Trial. Our club has existed at Sunset High school for more than 20 years. Our club is run by real lawyers, who spend their valuable time volunteering to teach students about the law and train them to compete in Mock Trial tournaments. Because our coaches are working individuals our club must exist after 5 PM, and school policy is restricting our club from operating at Sunset whatsoever. We request the school board help us find a solution for our historic club.
Metta	Truong	Student	For the comment: I am a member of Sunset Mock Trial. Our club has existed at Sunset High school for more than 20 years. Our club is run by real lawyers, who spend their valuable time volunteering to teach students about the law and train them to compete in Mock Trial tournaments. Because our coaches are working individuals our club must exist after 5 PM, and school policy is restricting our club from operating at Sunset whatsoever. We request the school board help us find a solution for our historic club.
Sharon	Dunlop	Other Community Member	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No teaming - students have a harder time connecting to teachers and resources. 2. Students behavior - it does affect academic performance. 3.To many transitions and periods are not long enough for lesson to fully be taught. 4. Your not listening to the experts in the classroom.
Melissa	Cowie	Parent/Guardian	I would really love to see the board develop more involvement for children with special needs. They are limited in their elective selections, and many after school activities and school events are not welcoming to children with special needs. Being there are only 2 middle schools that provide the SRC class environment, I would love to see these schools be prideful of the education they are providing to these kids, but nobody ever hears a word about it. It's quite disheartening to feel like these kids are tucked away, not spoken about, and have such limited opportunities for

			<p>electives and school activities. I'm always so impressed at what is provided for typical children, and I think we really need to evaluate and do better for our special needs kids. Thank you very much</p>
Sarah	Doggett	Parent/ Guardian	<p>I am very opposed to this proposal to have electives every other day. The current schedule has math and science at 1.5 times as much as the other classes. Of course math and science are important—they are not MORE important than everything else. Would this also continue with electives being 1/2 time? Research has shown that music education is beneficial to other aspects of learning. And beyond research, a very simple level, the electives that students choose are usually based on their interests. These are the classes that make school enjoyable and tolerable.</p> <p>We are seeing everywhere that our kids are 'behind'. Perhaps that is true—but the whole world went through the pandemic. And our response to that needs to be something that is truly beneficial and doesn't just pretend to fix the problem by adding more academic classes and take away benefits of social and arts Ed. Those are the things that kept us going during the pandemic, and they are still important.</p>
Julio (Junior)	Herrera	Student	<p>Hello, my name is Junior Herrera, I go to meadow park middle school and I am a 8th grader . I heard that they might change from having both electives everyday to having them rotate every other day. I do not like this change, This won't affect me, but this will effect younger kids that will go to my high school, I am in band and this will affect how good they are, and will affect how good the band will be as well. I know that it was like this in past years, and the kids were not able to learn the right way, after it switched to having both electives every day the band became much better. This also will affect people who are in classes like drama, Spanish, avid, and more. This can lead to how kids feel about school, I love having band every day and it brings me joy playing the drums. The drums is a passion that I found because I joined band in my 6th grade year, and is a passion I would have never found. I hope you take this into consideration, I do not charge his electives are right now</p>
Hannah	Bourcier	Staff	<p>Please follow my Google Doc link for the chart of my schedule suggestion: https://docs.google.com/document/d/19GsYttixU0cqzmtzEKavCbo26RmWyjlj0PsYGxsmvZU/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>Elective teachers should also have a sane and happy working environment. Their teaching is just as important as the “core” content areas - sometimes even more if you take into account for SEL and students with special needs or ELD who might have limited English or other issues where electives are the only time they thrive and feel proud. Please don't damage that by creating inequity in the teacher's schedule and not allowing everyone the time necessary to create a quality curriculum. Here's a possible schedule solution - someone told me they do this at the high school already? Why not at the middle school level too? Thanks for listening.</p>