

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES—STUDY SESSION SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

**Board Members Present:**

Dr. Karen Pérez, Chair  
Sunita Garg, Vice Chair  
Dr. Tammy Carpenter  
Ugonna Enyinnaya  
Susan Greenberg (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)  
Dr. Melissa Potter  
Justice Rajee (attended virtually)

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Gustavo Balderas	Superintendent
Dr. Carl Mead	Deputy Superintendent for Operations & Support Services
Dr. Heather Cordie	Deputy Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
Michael Schofield	Associate Superintendent for Business Services
Susan Rodriguez	Chief Human Resources Officer
Camellia Osterink	General Counsel
Jill O'Neill	Administrator for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

The meeting was open to the public to attend in person or via live stream on YouTube.

**I. OPEN MEETING**

Board Chair Dr. Karen Pérez called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**II. MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE REVIEW**

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Heather Cordie, Administrator for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Jill O'Neill, and three members of the Education Northwest project team—Johnette Burdette, Kathryn Rooney and Pablo López Trujillo—presented and answered school board members' questions about the middle school schedule review, its findings and recommendations, and next steps.

In fall 2021 the district implemented a new common middle school schedule for all neighborhood middle schools. The new schedule features an 8-period day in which most students' schedules include 7 subject area classes — language arts, math, PE/health, science, social studies and two electives — as well as advisory on certain days. Most class periods are 37 or 42 minutes long, depending on the day, while math and science classes are 58 or 63 minutes long, and the combined lunch/recess time is 30 minutes.

Since the implementation of the new schedule, numerous staff, students and parents had raised concerns about the schedule's impact on student learning, including:

- Disruptions to learning due to frequent transitions
- Inadequate class time to ensure students meet learning targets, including those who would benefit from individualized attention and interventions
- Difficulty in scheduling students in a team model for core classes
- Significant increase in the total number of students taught by Language Arts and Social Studies teachers.

**Belong. Believe. Achieve.**

*Use the following links to access board meeting information:*

*Video: [youtube.com/BeavertonSchools](https://youtube.com/BeavertonSchools) • Meeting Materials: [beavertonsd.org/boardmeetings](https://beavertonsd.org/boardmeetings)*

In response to growing concerns, in the fall of 2022, the district contracted Education Northwest to review the schedule and engage feedback on stakeholders' experiences of it. During the 2022–23 school year, Education Northwest conducted an extensive literature review, surveyed classified and licensed staff, and convened separate focus groups of staff, students, and parents.

In the study session, the Education Northwest team shared an overview of the middle school schedule review and their findings and suggestions. Findings included areas such as successes and challenges of the current schedule, impact on instruction, impact on student supports, impact on student learning, impact on student behavior and well-being, impact on educators, and participants' schedule preferences. The team's eight suggestions included:

- Develop a scheduling framework that prioritizes common planning time for teaming and sharing common groups of students across content areas
- Minimize the number of transitions between classes
- Integrate advisory course content into other courses and eliminate advisory class period
- Ensure that all students have at least 20 minutes of seated time to eat lunch
- Consider the ideal length of class necessary for effective instruction and learning
- Consider implementing equal class period lengths
- Continue to offer two electives (not necessarily every day)
- Consider whether a common middle school schedule and offerings is equitable.

Following the study session and an additional information presentation at the following board meeting, Teaching & Learning staff will consider the findings and recommendations, and collaborate with middle school principals to create schedule proposals for the superintendent's consideration and decision. Any changes that are made to the middle school schedule will be implemented next year, in fall 2024.

The detailed middle school schedule review report and overview slides are attached in BoardBook.

### **III. CLOSE MEETING**

Dr. Pérez adjourned the study session at 7:09 p.m.