

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2021
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: TIM LUTZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
SUBJECT: HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

COMMENTS:

In light of the fact that ISD 31 is facing a severe budget shortfall, and in response to the fact that the recent operating referendum failed to pass resulting in the loss of a potential \$1.5 million dollars a year in revenue, the school district must now take a number of difficult steps to reduce budget expenditures. Recognizing that the high school four-period day is an expensive schedule to maintain, a working group of directors, administrators and school staff have spent many hours analyzing the need for a change in the schedule to reduce the costs of a block schedule. An analysis has determined that ISD 31 can save approximately ten percent of the cost to run a four-period day by moving to a six-period day due to the efficiencies inherent in a schedule that offers more class periods.

The block period schedule is very expensive. A change to a six-period day is projected to save the district \$640,000.

Only a very small percentage of high schools in Minnesota remain on the block system due to the high expense of running a block schedule.

Due to the fact that a change in the high school schedule will take time to implement, action should be taken now so that planning and implementation may begin early in order to register students for next year's classes.

I am recommending this change in the high school schedule at this time as a means to preserve our general operating budget. Taking this large step will prevent our school district from statutory operating debt, which is a status we must avoid. Should this district become identified as being in Statutory Operating Debt, the state will come in with recommendations and requirements which will strip us of a lot of local control.

ACTION:

The motion was offered by _____, seconded by _____, and carried () to approve of the transition from a four-period day to a six-period day schedule at Bemidji High School.