



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: April 15th, 2014

Agenda # _____

Staff/Administrator: Dave Valenzuela

Superintendent: Patricia Adams

Type of Item: *Informational* *Action*

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

I recommend that the School Board adopt new graduation requirements under Board Policy IKR-AR. The current policy requires high school students to earn 27 credits in order to graduate. I am proposing that we adopt a 24 credit graduation requirement commensurate with the State of Oregon requirements and the requirements set forth by the majority of high schools in our region. *See attachment for the gradual reduction proposal. Should the Board adopt these new graduation requirements, I would also recommend a directive to develop criteria for a TRSD endorsed Honors Diploma at each high school. School teams would develop distinguished criteria based on academic offerings, school culture and minimum requirements set by the District. Proposals would then be submitted to a district team for screening with ultimate approval coming from the Board.

Provide history/background information on your proposal.

When the District moved to a trimester schedule it was decided that we would increase our graduation requirements to 27 credits. This was done in an effort to prevent students from graduating early and having a negative impact on our enrollment. We used a phase-in model of increasing our requirements over time, which is reflected in our current policy.

List the advantages of your proposal:

The State requires students to earn 24 credits in order to receive a Oregon High School Diploma. Many of the high schools in the state also require 24 credits in order to graduate. Our current requirement creates complications for any student transferring into our district who was on track to graduate in a 24 credit system. We would continue to require the same amount of core credits (ELA-4, Math-3, Science-3, and Social Studies-3) that we require now. If the Board adopts a semester schedule/calendar, on-track students would be able to earn 28 credits. Keeping the credit requirement at 27, and only allowing for 1 credit of deviation, would be very disadvantageous for our students. By moving to a 24 credit requirement we would become consistent with other schools and districts. It would provide our students a distinct advantage toward earning their high school diploma and allow the district to offer a meaningful Honors Diploma option.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

Under our current trimester system and 27 credit requirement, on-track students can potentially earn 30 credits in a typical 4-year high school experience. This allows for 3 credits for students to recover from failure or missed opportunities to gain credit. In the proposed semester system, on-track students would be able to earn 28 credits. If we reduced our credit requirements to 24 the difference between on-track potentially earned credits and required credits increases to 4. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, but an increase from the 3 credit difference (30 potential credits under our 27 credit requirement) that we currently have.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

Not adjusting our credit requirements was not recommended due to the fact that our 27 credit system does not provide the district or the students of TRSD any educational/academic advantage at all. It is in fact a hindrance to students transferring into our district as a 10th grader or later.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes No