

Curriculum Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 9:00 AM

Via Zoom Dial in: 312-626-6799; Code: 524422, 24 School Road, Weston, CT
06883-1623

I. Call to Order

**II. Follow up discussion regarding modifications to
school scenarios**

A. Distance learning schedules

**III. Follow up discussion on district and school
goals for promoting an inclusive and culturally
responsive curriculum**

IV. K-5 Reading Update

V. Approval of October 2020 Minutes

VI. Other curricular issues



WHS HYBRID EXTENDED DAY RECOMMENDATION

November 2020

After much thought and reflection, the WHS administrative team recommends a different hybrid extended day schedule beginning on November 16th. This decision was reached after careful study and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data including a student directed survey, teacher input, shared perspectives from VDL, in-person, and at-home students, curriculum instructional leader feedback, and health metrics. The WHS administrative team recommends this new schedule that lends itself to an efficient transition to full remote as well as full return.

Dr. McKersie and Dr. Craw have reviewed and support this recommendation. It is important that the Weston Board of Education has the opportunity to review and ask questions about this recommendation as well.

This recommendation is based on the following considerations:

- Overwhelmingly in their survey, students expressed concern with being online for 6+ hours on their off-cohort day in addition to homework time in the evening. (458 respondents grades 9-12)
- Student and staff support a return to a “drop 2” schedule, with 6 of 8 periods meeting daily. The pacing of instruction, assessment, and homework obligations work well in this model. Student stress is reduced.
- In these unprecedented times, the school community has identified social-emotional needs as a priority, and this new schedule reflects these needs.
- The transition out of the current half day hybrid schedule must be to one that easily adapts to a fully remote model in order to avoid unnecessary transitions and confusion. A full day hybrid would not meet student needs if applied to a full remote scenario.
- There is a need for a formal extended learning block for students to connect individually with their teachers. Academic teachers, special education teachers, and school counselors expressed concern about how to better meet the needs of struggling students as well as VDL students given the difficulties associated with remote learning. Students’ performance in quarter one supports this need in the number of Ds and Fs and period absences.
- A 56-minute class in the full day model is challenging for teachers when working with 3 groups simultaneously (in-person/VDL/at-home students). Teachers prefer slightly shorter class periods to maximize and sustain engagement
- Students expressed concerns about eating lunch at school. They are well aware that quarantine cases are increasing. They are also worried about the return of college students to town.

The new schedule accomplishes the following:

- Six classes meet per day/drop 2/class length of 40 minutes
- Screen time is reduced (4 hours 40 minute class time/70 minute break/1 hour extended learning block vs 6 hours 45 minutes for full day hybrid with 30 minute lunch)
- Extended learning hour daily for all students (VDL, in-person, at-home cohort) for drop-in extra help, required intervention/support, extended learning opportunities, conferencing

by appointment, scheduled support for VDLs. This time can also be flexed to include advisory, class meetings, guidance seminars, assemblies, and virtual field trips without disrupting scheduled class time.

- Time for in-person cohorts is increased.
 - Current Half-Day Hybrid =1760
 - New Extended Day Hybrid =1920 (+480 minutes/8 days for extended learning) = 2400 minutes overall total
- Students that wish to stay through on a given day or do not have alternate transportation, may eat lunch and access teachers in the afternoon in-person (12% of families surveyed in October stated they used afternoon transportation. 96 students/2 =48 students).
- Lunch time will be provided for students who remain in school. Lunch may be purchased.
- A Wellness Break will be scheduled, during which snacks will be sold and students may take a mask break.
- Some students will be required to stay in school all day on their given cohort day and/or every day. These students will be identified based on demonstrated needs and may include special education students, 504 students, students in need of social/emotional support and counseling, students who are unable to work independently. A structured individual program will be developed by counselors, SPED case managers, and administration.
- Fluid transition to a full-remote scenario if necessary (schedule remains without cohort repetition).

WHS Hybrid Extended Day								
<i>Class Schedule - all students participating, location determined by cohort</i>								
	A/E	A/E	B/F	B/F	C/G	C/G	D/H	D/H
7:45 - 8:25	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
8:30 - 9:10	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
9:15 - 10:05*	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3
10:10 - 10:50	6	6	6	6	4	4	4	4
10:55 - 11:35	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	5
11:40 - 12:20	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	6
DROP	1&2	1&2	3&4	3&4	5&6	5&6	7&8	7&8

Extended Learning Hour - all students

Drop-in extra help, required intervention/support, extended learning opportunities, conferencing by appointment, scheduled support for VDLs

1:30 - 2:30	ELH	ELH	ELH	ELH	ELH	ELH	ELH	ELH
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*Wellness Break (mask break/snack break/movement break scheduled by classroom location)

1st Wave: Break 9:15 - 9:25, Class 9:25 - 10:05

2nd Wave: Class 9:15 - 9:55, Break 9:55 - 10:05

