

District Advisory Council Meeting  
Board Room, Administration Building  
March 2, 2022  
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Martha Bilbrey Brandi Boles Miki Eddins  
Michelle Erdle Tristan Gant Michael Lamb  
James Payne Kaci Smith Melissa Spencer  
Kathy Wright

Members Absent: Jill Crump Mandy Fenton Kourtney McDonald  
Heather Salvarino Jill Sapaugh Rori Stroud  
Olga Tellez Dinh Tran Dr. Mario Villarino

Others Present: Jason Evans, John Bimmerle

Michael Lamb, Superintendent, opened the meeting. He thanked those in attendance for being there.

Lamb explained the history of the school calendar process. He asked the group what frustrates them most about our calendar. There were no replies. Lamb said he wanted to get the group's opinion about student and teacher days. The district has been using a staff development waiver to take from student days and add to teacher days. When the district began using minutes instead of days, this allowed the banking of "earned days." This current year included 164 full student days and 3 early release student days. Lamb asked the group if they would prefer 170 student days? He talked about a staggered schedule vs non-staggered schedule. Currently the school day is 460 minutes. He said that we cannot go less than 7 hours a day. Lamb asked for thoughts about the length of a school day. A couple of members expressed that they like the longer days. Lamb made members aware that there were enough "banked" minutes to cover the 5 days that students/staff have been out for COVID and bad weather this year. As of now those will not have to be made up, but if additional days are missed, they will be made up. He then talked about the half days used before or after holidays.

Lamb discussed staff days. There are 21 staff days in the current calendar. These days are used for staff development and workdays. He asked members if they prefer Mondays or Fridays off for students around the end of grading periods? He is considering moving those days to Mondays. He asked if 21 teacher days are too many? He reviewed the current days. Teachers in the group agreed that it is not too many days. Lamb said it is hard to get enough subs to do the training/work in on a normal school day. It was noted that it is more difficult for parents. The pattern proposed for now is that students are out about every 15 days. Lamb asked again if any staff days need to be turned into student days. He also asked about the benefit of having a big bank of days. Members agreed it is good to have minutes banked.

Lamb asked the group if they would like to talk about the calendar proposal to other staff members and come back for another meeting or if they feel ready for him to present the calendar proposal to the Board for approval? A couple of members said their campus co-workers voted them into this position and trust them to make the right decisions. A member asked if there is data showing the benefits of more staff days? Lamb gave examples of different districts that do and do not have more staff days and why. He said the purpose of the 21 days are to help make the 166 student days even better. Lamb asked again if the group was good to stamp the calendar and go. Everyone agreed to proceed. The calendar proposal will be presented at the regular school board meeting on March 7.

Lamb next spoke to the group about the organization "Raise Your Hand Texas." He said this organization does a good job of advocating for teachers at the state capitol. They have asked to come to a meeting such as this to ask questions of the teachers to better help them. He said he doesn't like sales pitches but feels 30 minutes with this group could benefit teachers. Would members be willing to come back on March 23? Majority said they would. He asked if each member would bring someone with them and if they cannot attend send someone in their place.

Lamb thanked the members for attending and the meeting was adjourned.