

Questions from Board Members

Board Meeting Agenda - 08/04/2020

Action Item I4: TA

1. Would it be possible to see an example of a student schedule at the elementary and high school level during tomorrow's meeting?

These are being printed from Infinite Campus. All identifying information will be erased so the samples can be shared with board members.

2. Regarding the details of parent-teacher conferences, that are going to be determined in collaboration with the District and DTA, will that be another TA or will that be a more informal process? There will not be another TA. Teachers will hold parent-teacher conferences virtually in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement. The District and DTA will collaborate in order to determine the most effective method of presenting student information.

3. For our parent community, could we get a little more explanation on how teacher prep time has traditionally been used, and how much was allocated, and how that is now made transparent in these schedules? I believe that will help the parent community understand this better. I think it would benefit the parent community to see how much was allocated before, and how much is allocated now in distance learning.

At the secondary level, teachers are required to teach five periods in the instructional schedule. Traditionally this means that teachers in grades 6-12 have a daily prep allocation of 50-55 minutes M/T/Th/F and 45 minutes on the shortened Wednesdays. Prep time has traditionally been used at the teacher's discretion to prepare instructional materials for a future lesson, provide feedback on students' written work, enter grades in the gradebook, and/or communicate with parents. Under the distance learning instructional schedules, teachers will continue to teach five periods in the instructional schedule and have one period of prep. Since students in grades 6-12 are on a block schedule during distance and hybrid learning, teachers will not have a daily prep but will have prep time three days per week. The total number of prep minutes per week is comparable to the amount of time teachers had allocated for prep prior to school campus closures.

Under typical circumstances, Elementary teachers receive four 45 minute preps during the week. Two occur during the early release days on Mon/Tues. The other two preps occur during the week with a scheduled 45 minute PE and Music class. In the Distance Learning schedule, all of the prep time is at the end of the day (4 days per week), similar to the early release days which occurred on Mon/Tues.

previously. PE and Music classes will occur during the week, but will be scheduled in 30 minute blocks rather than 45 minutes.

4. Also for our parent community, could we get a little more explanation on the teacher office hours and how that can fully benefit students? I believe the majority of the students will not proactively utilize office hours.

The amount of time devoted to Teacher-Student Open Support Time is balanced by Directed Intervention time in both the middle and high school schedules. Directed Intervention time is mandatory for students who are assigned by teachers or administrators based on their need for academic support. Teacher-Student Open Support Time is made available to ensure all students have access to all their teachers on an as-needed basis. There is more directed intervention time in the middle school schedule precisely because younger students are less likely to utilize traditional office hours. Ideally, parents and teachers will partner together to encourage their middle school and high school students to utilize the open teacher support time effectively. It is an important college and career readiness skill.

For Elementary, the "office hours" time is to support student/family outreach.