

November 6, 2012

To: Dr. Rasmussen

From: Liberty High School Schedule Committee-Josh Almy, Phil Donley, Matt Harvey, Jessica Johnson, Angie Kruzich, Gary McIntosh, Casey Stookey, Wright Noel, Julie Colehour Mitchell, Dan Godfrey, Christina Snow

Re: Liberty High School Schedule Committee Recommendation

On October 30th, the Liberty High School Schedule Committee voted unanimously to recommend a 7 period schedule. The 7 period schedule that the committee recommends meets the charge of a minimum of 150 hours of contact time while also balancing opportunities across the Liberty High School educational program. The committee understands that this recommendation comes with a \$700,000-\$800,000 cost to the district, but is confident that the benefits of this schedule are worth the cost.

The committee strongly believes that the request for a 7 period schedule is the best option even with the additional costs for the reasons stated below.

A 7 period schedule:

- Balances the 6 and 8 period day based on student-teacher contact time by increasing the contact time per class by 24 hours
- Provides an optimum balance between opportunity for electives and face time for students and teachers
- Allows struggling students to have an opportunity to take support classes in addition to core classes and electives which helps these students improve tests scores, maintain passing grades, and enjoy elective courses

- Fosters excellent college and post high school preparation since students have the opportunity to take a variety of AP, math, science, and elective courses especially with graduation and college entrance requirements increasing
- Allows students to have a greater selection of elective courses, making options more equitable across the district. Since Liberty has 800 fewer students than Issaquah HS and Skyline HS, there would be fewer elective options on a 6 period schedule
- Provides the opportunity for a variety of quality courses to all students without forcing students to pay for and take online or summer school courses
- Creates a better use of time on Wednesdays by maintaining a block schedule
- Meets with students 4 times per week

Scheduling Committee’s #1 Choice:

- 150 hours exactly per class
- Classes meet **four** times per week, where Tuesdays and Wednesdays are blocked to maximize use of Wednesdays

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 7:21-8:13 (52)	1 7:21-8:55 (94)	X	1 7:21-8:13 (52)	1 7:21-8:13 (52)
2 8:17-9:09 (52)	2 8:59-10:33 (94)	5 9:49-11:20 (91)	2 8:17-9:09 (52)	2 8:17-9:09 (52)
3 9:13-10:05 (52)	L 10:33-11:06 (33)	L 11:20-11:50(30)	3 9:13-10:05 (52)	3 9:13-10:05 (52)
4 10:09-11:01(52)	3 11:10-12:44 (94)	6 11:54-1:25 (91)	4 10:09-11:01(52)	4 10:09-11:01(52)
L 11:01-11:31(30)	4 12:48-2:22 (94)	7 1:29-3:00 (91)	L 11:01-11:31(30)	L 11:01-11:31(30)
5 11:35-12:28 (53)			5 11:35-12:28 (53)	5 11:35-12:28 (53)
6 12:32-1:25 (53)			6 12:32-1:25 (53)	6 12:32-1:25 (53)
7 1:29-2:22 (53)			7 1:29-2:22 (53)	7 1:29-2:22 (53)

Scheduling Committee’s #2 Choice:

- 150 hours exactly per class
- Classes meet three times per week, where Tuesdays through Fridays are blocked
- Again blocking helps to maximize use of Wednesdays
- Blocking Thursday and Friday, increases class time while lowering passing time by 24 minutes per week
- Also, lessens the impact of adding minutes to the school day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 7:25-8:16 (51)	1 7:25-8:58 (93)	X	1 7:25-9:11 (106)	4 7:25-8:16 (51)
2 8:20-9:11 (51)	2 9:02-10:35 (93)	5 9:49-11:20 (91)	2 9:15-11:01 (106)	5 8:20-10:07 (107)
3 9:15-10:06 (51)	L10:35-11:05 (30)	L 11:20-11:50(30)	L 11:01-11:31(30)	L 10:07-10:37 (30)
4 10:10-11:02(52)	3 11:09-12:42 (93)	6 11:54-1:25 (91)	3 11:35-1:21 (106)	6 10:41-12:28(107)
L 11:02-11:32(30)	4 12:46-2:19 (93)	7 1:29-3:00 (91)	4 1:25-2:19 (54)	7 12:32-2:19 (107)
5 11:36-12:28 (52)				
6 12:32-1:24 (52)				
7 1:29-2:20 (52)				

Additional Recommendation

If the 7 period day cannot be funded, 10 of 11 of the present committee members voted to recommend that Liberty keep the 8 period schedule because the committee believes that the 8 period schedule provides excellent learning experiences and elective opportunities for Liberty students. As evidenced by Liberty’s test scores, graduation rates and feedback from college admissions staff, our kids are performing well under the current eight period schedule.

The committee does not recommend a 6 period schedule for Liberty. Although a six period schedule would meet the 150 hour requirement, it only satisfies one of the three portions of the committee’s charge. For several years, a six period schedule would not be cost neutral as during

this time a shift in staffing would be occurring. In addition, a six period schedule will have even less opportunity in the future with rising graduation requirements. The committee has strong concerns about opportunity options being an outside class that students have to pay for. This makes opportunity only available for those who can afford it. If seven periods is a possibility in the near future, it would be extremely disruptive to change Liberty to a six period schedule then change again to a seven period schedule.

Closing

The Liberty Schedule Committee has spent the last two months looking at data, researching schedule options and gathering input from the Liberty Community with the goal of creating a schedule that meets the charge of the 150 hours of contact time requirement while also balancing opportunities across the Liberty High School educational program. The committee considered multiple parameters during its meetings and had many discussions about what is working for students and what the future of education looks like. All of these factors continued to lead the committee to a seven period schedule. The committee strived to look at both the data and to listen to extensive community input that was received about the issue. We know that 87% of parents and 95% of students in the Liberty community do not want a 6 period day (per a PTSA survey that was conducted by the Patriot Press). This view was consistent with the feelings of the committee. We believe that our seven period solution provides the optimal learning environment as was called for in our charter. However, we were not able to create a seven period schedule that was cost neutral. We ask the district to consider investing in the proposed seven period schedule for Liberty since we believe it is the best balance for our kids. If that is not possible, we ask that the district keep Liberty on its current 8 period schedule.

If the district would like to meet with the committee to further discuss our process or conclusions we would be happy to do so. We believe that everyone involved in this conversation has the best interest of the Liberty kids as their motivation and welcome the opportunity to work further with you on this issue.