

District –Wide Consultation Committee Meeting
(DWCC)

Minutes for Wednesday, March 2, 2016

The District-Wide Consultation Committee (DWCC) met on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at 4:15pm, in the Crockett room at One AISD Center. The following committee members were in attendance: Dr. Young, Kay Loftin, Traci Yandell, Carey Kitts, Cindy Boyd, Roger Thomas, Tom Tomaras, Jessica Melson, Joe Alcorta, Phil Ashby, Tracy Howle, and Summer Anders. Also in attendance were Gail Gregg and Sondra Cox. The following members were absent: Christy Young, Steven Shinkle, Linda White, Roy Dudgeon, Charlie Thyne, Charlene Richardson, Elizabeth Wagstaff.

Roger Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:15pm and called for approval of minutes for the last meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Young discussed the comments that were made from the survey with the committee members. Most of the negative comments were from family or teachers of elementary. Many people had concerns regarding the longer school days affecting the younger students in elementary. Dr. Young shared some letters from students at Thomas Elementary regarding the new calendar and extending the school day.

Many committee members are concerned about the negative feedback from the survey. There is a closed group on Facebook regarding the revised calendar, majority of the comments are concerns about extended hours during the school day and after school activities.

Dr. Young received a letter from TEA stating that they will still issue waivers for 73,920 minutes. The original calendar would be fine for the 73,920 minutes, without adding minutes to the calendar. The purposed calendar has 74,760 minutes for 172 days, if we add 145 minutes it would be adding 15 minutes to each school day. The committee also talked about doing another survey for staff and parents, and the general public to better explain to them the purpose of adding the extra minutes to the school day. The committee also discussed opening Abilene High School and Cooper High School in the evening so the public has a chance to participate in the survey if they do not have a computer available to them.

Dr. Alcorta mentioned that the committee read the comments and instead of 30 extra minutes for elementary, we can do an extra 15 minutes in elementary and an extra 30 minutes in secondary. The biggest concern with the extended school hours were the younger students having a harder time with extended school hours. The committee also discussed that the

Kindergarten- 2nd could have longer recess time and 3rd-5th could have more time for tutoring and UIL.

A handout was presented to the committee members containing examples of the bell schedules from several elementary, middle schools and high schools. The committee discussed adding 10 minutes to elementary instead of a full 30 minutes. The first bell would ring at 7:50 am and the tardy bell would ring at 8:00am, then school would be out at 3:10pm. The committee discussed the bell schedule for middle school and high school could be 8:20am-3:45pm, but there was some concern about parents that have children in both middle school and high school. Dr. Young suggested that middle school could go from 8:15am to 3:40pm and high school could go from 8:15am to 3:45pm, allowing parents time to pick kids up.

Thomas Tomaras made the motion to accept the new calendar for 2016-2017 school year. Carey Kitts seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously. The calendar will be presented to the Board on March 21, 2016 during the next Board meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016 at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

Summer Anders, Secretary
For the DWCC Committee