

Study of Block Scheduling at Galesburg High School 2016-17
Galesburg School District 205
Galesburg, IL

Purpose: Determine the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Block Scheduling at GHS

January 5, 2017 3:30 p.m. Meeting No. 4
Learning Center Conference Room GHS

Meeting Summary - Brief

All members were present. We began by welcoming Steve Eisemann, who is a long-time Galesburg resident, parent, teacher and school administrator, who worked on scheduling for years including the years when the Block Schedule was implemented. His discussion with us was very helpful in gaining his perspective and understanding some of the intricacies of the schedule and its impact on student learning. Thanks to questions generated ahead of time by Ben and Stu and questions that people asked at the meeting we were able to spend almost the entire 90 minutes on this topic.

1. Steve shared with us what he saw as the positives to the 4-block schedule and how the implementation began and then developed. We discussed what the hopes and dreams were for teaching style and course offerings and the advantages of less passing times for students. We talked about how the changes at times seemed to be uneven and implemented in different ways by different staff.
2. We also discussed the professional development that originally took place at the point of implementation.
3. There was also a discussion of some of the drawbacks that some people considered part of the investment of the block schedule, as well as some opinions regarding the effectiveness of the schedule for different kinds of students.
4. A question came up as to whether the contract (collective bargaining agreement) language requires the Block Schedule. We are looking for clarification on this.
5. Steve shared his views of the 6-period schedule as it was used prior to the block schedule and how some thought that it worked better for certain subjects and the ability of students to attain their first or second choices of subjects.
6. We also talked about the advantages of block scheduling for establishing relationships with students to enhance the learning environment.

We also used this opportunity to talk about school start time and the role that athletics plays in determining and implementing a starting time for high school students. We adjourned shortly after 5:00 p.m. until our next meeting on January 9th at 3:30 in Room 15 at GHS.

Committee Members

Laurie Aten . Ben Bredemeier . Jeff Houston . Matt Jacobson .
Gloria Osborn . Stu Schaafsma . Lori Sundberg .
and Peter Flynn (Consultant)