

**EXPANDED LEARNING TIME
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
February 7, 2007**

Attending: Tom Nadolny, Todd Gazda, Jeanene Iglesias, Hal Martin, Janice Doppler, David Hopson, Ginny Maxwell, Cheryl Hopson, Wendy Long

1. Those who've attended other committees:

Todd reported on the Middle School Committee. Sue Luppino and Cathy Negri surveyed all of the 7th grade students for activities ideas. Results were shared with the committee. They reviewed the planning guide and decided to develop staff and parent survey. Based upon elementary survey. Care was given to keep it positive without "selling" the concept. They also emphasized it would be mandatory for all students. They are thinking of attaching the results of the 7th grade results. "Students needs and interests will guide the design", current 4th – 7th grade parents. SASE to be included. They also want to survey staff to identify interests expected compensation. Also, possible community partners were identified. They are also going to invite community partners to attend a meeting, including Westfield State College.

High School: has designed a survey based on MS Survey; are meeting next week to refine. Have included a question on flipping start times, to see what parent feedback is.

Elementary: Parent survey has gone home in red folders. Staff survey is being developed, what would they be willing to do? Early results were parents want their kids home with them after school. Some parents feel that it would be great to have activities they travel to offered at school. Tom suggested that the staff survey be the same to all elementary teachers. Ginny will track it down and get it to Tom.

- 2. Question: extended day vs. extended year. Shortening summer a little would reduce the loss of knowledge over a longer summer. Extending the day is more cost effective (reduced bussing); will students be too tired by the end of the day?**
- 3. Parent involvement: Can we design something that involves parents more at the elementary level? Automatic phone calls to houses (East Longmeadow); parents becoming less involved as children move up through system; low numbers of parents reading to children at night;**
- 4. Emerging issues and ideas: how late will kids be getting home? What will the opportunities be? "Academies" model (sci-tech, athletics, performing arts, etc.), or units with 1 of 4 being academically focused, long-term, project based, put on plays, etc.**

5. **If we got a list of activities and potential community partners; stipending teachers to do a play, etc. We need to ask or direct the enrichment activities, how to incorporate academics into that time. What they are looking at in terms of starting times; are we still contemplating hours on the day plus days in the year.**
6. **Need to communicate survey results to the public when they are compiled.**
7. **Group agreed that collecting parent email addresses would be beneficial for communications.**
8. **As a school, we only have kids for 9% of the time from birth to age 18.**
9. **Is it 25% increase of 990 hours? Or of our current school schedule. We will clarify this at the Mass 2020 meeting in March.**
10. **How are we going to increase professional development time? Dave has seen other schools do academies that don't involve all staff; staff that don't run a program can do PD.**
11. **NPR had an ELT story about its acceptance being based on socio-economic levels of communities.**
12. **Gateway has 1 in 70 Autism/Aspergers children; national average is 1 in 150.**
13. **What we want to communicate to the public:**
 - **We are not just having kids sit in a classroom for two hours per day.**
 - **Graduation requirements w/ MCAS, etc. increasing to 240; what happens if you don't pass;**
 - **How this will improve student success;**
 - **What are we going to do that will help students at different levels?**
 - **Extra time options**
 - **Make a case for people to absorb a little pain;**
 - **High Risk unsupervised hours; single-parent households;**

Next Steps/Tasks:

- **Get the survey results onto the website and inform the public.**
- **Tom and Ginny will get staff surveys out throughout elementary level.**
- **Wendy and Dave will draft a press release and get it out to committee members for feedback.**
- **Next Meeting: 3/21/07 at 7 p.m.**