

45/15 Community Input Session
Thursday, September 29, 2016
Location: Century High School

- Change vacation times instead of reducing the summer entirely
- Scrap this and address start times and physical education
- If you have a feeder school into a middle school, and a middle school/high on 45/15 then where are the neighborhood kids who don't want this going to go?
 - If my kids go to Willow and Willow becomes a 45/15 and I don't want that then where would my child go?
- Even though there's no school, there is still practices, after school activities, sports, etc. to be in town for
- Families with children in multiple schools on different schedules
- What are the financial impacts to the district if 45/15 is implemented?
- Air conditioning needs for buildings
- Limiting summer enrichment
- No research supporting 45/15
- Are discussions taking place with local business as to their support (Mayo, Childcare, local camps)?
- Go all or none
- Lots of hands went up in favor of exploring a balanced calendar...what would make half more important than the other half?
- Please consider the larger community...
 - In your discussion and not just RPS students and families. This affects preschools, early learning centers, young families, child care centers, and workers (including those who have summer jobs, kids in other districts, etc.) And then all the community members who work and live with those people.
- Concerns
 - Longfellow has free SACC – others schools couldn't support dollars and don't have capacity for all kids
 - Teachers who have kids in Rochester but teach elsewhere would be on different calendars
 - Kids with transition issues the 45/15 increases the number of big transitions
 - Extracurricular activities won't align with other districts.
 - Feels like it being pushed through to move forward, doesn't work for everyone.
 - Kids on different schedules.
 - Break schedules and make it hard to get back on schedule.
 - Too short of summer for enrichment camps etc.
 - Community would suffer related to summer camp dollars loss by fewer weeks.
 - Mayo has prime time would be too hard to get time off.
 - College kids rely on summer jobs as nannies, camp counselors, etc.

- High school flexibility?
- High school student employment.
- Sports schedule.
- All district vs only a few (Multiple schedules)
- AP Readiness for high school students
- Parent job conflicts
- Transportation costs
- When is this decision going to be made?
- Mayo Clinic employees need to select open enrollment options for child care by November 1, 2016-waiting too long will cause us to potentially lose thousands of dollars due to childcare flexible spending
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- Main concern is having different children within the same family on different calendars. That is a non-starter. It is not feasible for families from a logistical perspective. I don't care what calendar we use as long as all my kids (K-12) are on the same calendar. We need a feeder pathway or a calendar option that works for all schools.
- Start in August
- Lengthen existing breaks
 - 1 Week – Thanksgiving
 - 2 Weeks – Winter
 - 2 Weeks – Spring Break
- Strongly consider starting high school days later in morning. These adolescents are physically programmed to get up later. So many are sleep deprived.
- Highly academic students
 - Starting school in August would better prepare students for May AP tests. They are disadvantaged now with post Labor Day start.
 - These students work hard and push themselves in academics, extracurricular, work and volunteering. They burn out! A break with opportunities for rest/relaxation/reflection would be healthy.
 - Opportunities for other academic and enrichment activities would be incredible; volunteering, shadowing, internships, online classes, travel, even nanny other kids who are off from school.
- Struggling Students
 - Remedial teaching/tutoring
 - They need a break too!
 - Enrichment opportunities may introduce them to things that may inspire them to excel!
- This gives lots of flexibility for kids to catch up and work on academic curriculum along with grasping additional depending on their capabilities. At the same time it is helpful for parents too. I don't see any downfall all listed downfalls can be eliminated.
- Give at least 2 years notice before change for people to get use to the idea and plan ahead. Love this idea of extending winter break and shortening August break.

- Regular breaks are good for students.
- I've been to Longfellow and the children and teachers seem happier and not burned out.
- College kids come back home in the summer and help a lot of families with child care needs. This will be bad for them and difficult for parents to get childcare in October (Especially if kids are not eligible for childcare – middle school).
- Less supervision for middle school and high school kids (9-10 grades when not driving).
- What is the cost?
- Have teachers been asked about it?
- What is the deadline for a decision?
- If it's not districtwide, which school and what grades?
- Why are we discussing a decision that affects 18,000 students from a school that is 11th for all the elementary schools?
- What are the drawbacks of 45/15?
- Why is there no information on the website?
- Undecided about 45/15 (2); against (1); for (1)
- Need information on
 - Where change implemented (Elementary or Middle)
 - Discussion way too board
- 50% of parents wanting 45/15 not enough but could do a choice within a middle school but what are costs?
- Enticing to have breaks throughout year (start earlier in summer) to help students/teacher burnout.
- Support for middle school 45/15 – school already done at Friedell, Montessori and Franklin.
- What is intersession
- The district is pushing a pro 45/15 agenda
- Why are we not knowing what the plans are
- Is SACC subsidized during intersession
- How are students selected with respect to intersession? Is it open to all students?
- How will AP Programming be impacted by a 45/15 calendar?
- Would we implement this more in our elementary school vs taking this the whole way up right away?
- Why are we changing just so kids can have a little extra break or is it for them to do better academically?
- What do I do about sports?
- What about the kids that are too old for babysitters but not old enough to drive? I have to leave work to drive them to and from sporting activities.
- How does Longfellow test scores compare to Washington?
- The 15 day time off may impact high school students sleep patterns
- What would the workload look like for our secondary students? Is it balanced?
- How much would bussing cost?

- Is Willow Creek already selected as a 45/15?
- A month timeline is too late.
- You don't want to bring this up every year to discuss.
- Is this going to be like boundary changes? You are asking for input, input, input, yet nothing gets done. You did nothing at boundary work.
- Transportation schedules? Should we just do this across the board so that community can plan across the board?

- We are never going to get a majority. I hope that you will entertain cutting back summers a bit and extending winter break and spring break.
- Suggestion:
- Can we have students that are at risk be on 45/15 schedule?
- Sleep schedules – it takes 21 days to get into a routine, and 3 weeks of break amount to a mess of sleep schedules.
- Teens need 8-10 hours of sleep a night.
- Summer break – summer break implies a long break. 45/15 doesn't have what it claims to have in a summer break.
- Very difficult transition.
- Kids who work; this would be really detrimental.
- Please remember to ask not just parents, but also ask students. We are the ones going through this, so we deserve to have our voices heard.
- Educate kids on what 45/15 is.
- Start school later.
- 45/15 Needs to be K-12. Not fair to families with middle school student on one schedule and elementary on a different.
- If we don't do 45/15, can we shorten summer by 2-3 weeks and winter, spring and fall break a bit?
- Harder to offer "summer camp" options because of a shorter summer and the time it takes to prep for new school year.
- Harder for teachers in the district that have children in surrounding community districts – nightmare trying to figure out care.
- Not all families at Aldrich have older children in the district. Nor do all families with older children attend RPS (attend outlying schools or private schools). It would be difficult to have different schedules for their children.
- We'd have to do September/January readjustments so many times.
- So much time re-teaching routines, reliving separation anxiety.
- If Aldrich followed...Difficult for younger kids to readjust to school/home schedules over long breaks.
 - What options on 3 week breaks?
 - Many parents would need alternative care options.
- I think Aldrich would have to follow the 45/15 if RPS makes the switch.

- Not good for parents if the pick-up and drop off is any different i.e. for job start times.
- As apparent who works, this schedule is very an appealing.
- It would be too difficult for our 2 year olds to have 3 week breaks....Have to get used to the separation from parents again each time. (Aldrich)
- It could discourage parents from enrolling their children here because their children would have different schedules. (But personally, I wouldn't want us to do the schedule either because of my summer job.)
- How would kids adjust to the longer breaks? Hard for the younger ones.
- 3 weeks off in Oct/Dec-Jan/March-Apr, Labor Day, memorial Day, July 4 and MLK.
- Choice – the families who want it should be able to have it.
- Summer break shorter
- Less remedial work in September.
- Longer breaks during the year.
- More tip options.
- Have it as a choice – difficult for high school to follow
- California – Middle of August start – Extra break
- Lengthen winter and spring breaks – shorten summer by two weeks.
- Later start times for middle and high school. Focus on this will help those students at risk.
- Start elementary school earlier (flip-flop_ for age biochemistry.
- Just because Longfellow is working, doesn't mean it works for all.
- Other choice schools want same recognition and praise for good work, curriculum.
- More quality family time (if all on same schedule.
- Able to take vacations.
- Kids in August are bored.
- Multiple schedules (all or none better); all kids need to be the same.
- Sports – kids not getting this time off.
- Early/or shorten summer vacation.
- Friday off in August.
- Longer breaks in school year.
- 4 day week does it same money?
- Longer time off each week.
- Shorter breaks during year and spread them out throughout the school year.
- Start later – middle and high school (at least high school) later. Data supporting later start for older kids.
- Different schedule than most of state.
- Vacation with other family around the state clash.
- Sports – our kids can't always take vacation because practice and games/meets.
- All or nothing – hard for different school levels. (Elementary, Middle, HS)
- Hard for families scheduling.
- Not supporting better grade or test scores.

- Weather in MN best time off and family not everyone can afford to go to the beach in winter.
- Impact businesses dependent upon summer break
 - Pools
 - Quarry Hill Camps
 - Local Camp – Sports, etc.
- Are Longfellow parents willing to offer pros/cons for the community to see?
- If change has to happen it should be across the board for K-12. One option to consider could be shortening the summer break, adding a week each for winter and spring break.
- Why can't a group research other schools on 45/15 schedules to see how they handle challenges. Don't need to recreate the wheel. I love the possibility of change. Just need more info.
- Homework – There is emotion involved in discussing this topic. To remove and make an education decision, gather facts. Answers to these factual questions, then survey. Remove the subjective information and feelings. Tell us what are the benefits? More costs? Childcare? Cost to families?
- Start school year mid-August (15th) when kids go back for sports practice.
- Lengthen winter or spring break (move spring break to February)
- Go district-wide with changes or not at all.
- Possibly be done by Memorial Day.
- No educational benefit – cost – more school missed.
- Learn from Des Moines Schools – 5 elementary moved to 45/15 only 1 elementary at 45/15 now.. No educational benefit, kids missing more school so reverted back to traditional calendar. Very costly mistake.
- I fail to understand the argument of costs of implementing. If people have the options it should cost the same. I do favor a longer school year.
- Churchill/Hoover community refused doing 45/15 two years ago.
- According to yesterday's newspaper only 30% of families gave survey back. It shows lots of families not interest in 45/15.
- Stop wasting time and resources on this. Spend time and money on big issues. What will impact our kids?
- If 45/15 is wanted by 50% of the families – try it with K-12. It could be more of a problem if families have kids on different schedules in different schools
- How much would bussing cost?
- Is Willow Creek already selected as a 45/15?
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- Is this going to be like boundary changes? You are asking for input input input yet nothing gets done. You did nothing at boundary work.
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