

## **Bertha-Hewitt 4 Day School Week Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will some of the staff lose hours, causing them to lose income?**

- The teachers will put in an additional 13 staff development days to ensure they are working the same number of hours that they typically would, so their pay remains the same. The support staff (paras) would have their hours reduced, but the school will offer them additional duties – van driving, bus supervision, daycare, etc....to keep their hours as close as possible to a typical year. We have surveyed our support staff and it's about 50/50 – half of them are ok with the reduction and half of them would want to pick up additional duties to keep their pay the same. With about 15 support staff being ok with the reduction – that is an approx. savings of \$40,000 to the district.

### **Would it also affect school activities like prom, homecoming, or snow days? Would prom be able to be held on Friday (assuming we wouldn't have school that day) so then the students that went would get an extra day to rest?**

- Homecoming and snow days wouldn't change much; all the activities would just need to fall within the 4-day week. I think prom being held on a Friday would be a challenge because 30-40% of our attendees are guests from other towns and they would still have school. Also, there is a good chance there may be a sporting event scheduled for most Fridays in April. If we proceed with a 4-day week and Mondays are the day off – the students would get that extra day off after a late evening of dancing on Saturday!

### **We still haven't received a concrete answer on if there will be daycare provided on the off days, and if we will be charged for it?**

- We are still working on different ideas to not burden our families with younger children. As soon as we decide on what we may offer, we will be sure to inform everyone.

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**If Bertha-Hewitt decides to apply and it is accepted, are we required to carry through with it? Example - we get to July / August and realize for some reason the district decides to not go through with it, can we stay at a 5-day week?**

- No, you are required to complete one year in the 4-day model if you apply. The initial application is to operate in a 4-day model for three years. If after the first year the district isn't seeing the benefits that they anticipated, upon board approval and notification to MN Dept of Education – Bertha-Hewitt would be able to return to the traditional 5-day calendar.

**How long is the application good for? If we apply now, can we wait to start this until the 25-26 school year?**

- If the application is accepted, it will allow Bertha-Hewitt to operate for up to three years in the 4-day model. If we apply before the May 10<sup>th</sup> deadline – we are applying for the 24-25 school year, not the 25-26 school year. On March 15<sup>th</sup> legislation was passed allowing new school districts to apply for this model; we are unsure if this is a one-time window, or if Districts will be able to apply each spring.

**How would transportation work for the younger kids who cannot drive for sports after school and on days with no school? Would transportation be provided j.h. players or would there be no practice those days? Would older kids who could drive be able to bring them to practice or would it be against school policies or would be up to their parents?**

- At this point the School District would not be offering transportation for junior high kids and kids who aren't able to drive. In speaking with other schools – they stated that the kids just made it work. With parent permission, kids can obtain rides to and from practice from other students – this wouldn't go against school policy as we can't (and don't want to) dictate who gets rides from who. Several parents have reached out to our administration stating they would be willing to organize ride shares to help ensure all students had a ride if needed.