

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

### **Will there be programs available for students on the off day?**

- The School District will offer Targeted Services for students in Grades K – 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 12:00. Targeted Services is an extended time program offered by the state so there will be no cost to families and the district will be reimbursed for salaries, food, etc.... The school will also offer daycare from 12:00 – 4:00 for that same age group on the off days; the cost will be \$2 per hour per child. Families who have different contracts with the Hangout will continue to follow those contracts. Parents will be responsible for transportation for these opportunities.

### **Will preschool programming be affected?**

- We have changed our decision on this, and we plan to keep preschool programming as is. We initially stated we were going to eliminate one day of 3-year-old preschool, but after some quality feedback from families – we are going to continue to offer 2 days of preschool for 3-year-olds.

### **Will the staff be working less time and/or getting cut?**

- The latest proposal has our teaching staff working 7 more hours per year than they do in a 5 day a week model, but their pay will remain the same. Our paraprofessionals might see a small uptick in hours because of the length of the day; their hourly pay will remain the same and they will have the option to pick up more hours if they want to assist with Targeted Services and/or daycare on the off days.

### **How would this affect sports and sporting events?**

- The school day is approximately 15 minutes longer, but our activities coordinator will communicate with coaches the importance of having efficient practices, so kids aren't in the building much longer than they are now. The games and events will remain the same as usual.

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### **When will the final decision be made?**

- There is one more public meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Bertha-Hewitt School Library and then the School Board has scheduled a special meeting for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the library for a final vote.

### **What are the main reasons for the proposed change?**

- During the public meetings the administrative team has shared the following reasons why the district is looking at the 4-day option:
  - o Staff Retention – 91% of our staff surveyed prefer the 4-day option
  - o Attracting new staff – we currently have 5 open teaching positions with no applications for any of them. We believe that moving to a 4-day option will help generate a bigger applicant pool to fill the positions with quality people.
  - o Financial – The financial savings is hard to pinpoint because there are so many moving parts, but we estimate the district will save around \$75,000.
  - o Academic Success – Retaining our staff and attracting quality candidates to fill our openings will help us offer more electives and keep class sizes small.

### **Will the District offer some sort of food on the off days for students at home?**

- The district currently sends home backpacks of food on the weekends; we believe we can expand this program to meet the needs of our families on the off days if needed.

### **Will our transportation costs be reduced?**

- Yes, in the fact that we will utilize less fuel/propane and the buses will travel less miles. We currently have a contract in place for transportation for the 24-25 school year in which we can't negotiate any salary changes so the bus drivers will not see a decrease in pay.