

Dear Parents,

I am sorry to report that no teachers attended the meeting tonight. Jose spoke with a number of teachers who would not commit to attending tonight's meeting and he did begin talking to teachers two days ago.

This morning, he received an email from Beth Foulds, as Union president, stating that the Lead Team did not agree with the process and felt the Lead Team teachers who were asked were "hand picked". Upon hearing this, Jose and I talked and, as there were no teachers willing to say for certain that they would attend, at noon he invited any members of the Leadership Team who wanted to attend to come to the meeting and he sent out the schedule for the entire team to review. He also asked for any comments on the schedule. He received three email replies. The suggested changes were not significant ones; most still wanted to keep what they have now, with adding the I/E, but doing so with the current schedule would have reduced the class times even more from what they are now.

Last night, at the Ag Ed Open House, one of the Ag Ed teachers said to me, "Pam, I hope you get this thing settled. It's not about the schedule anymore. I'm not sure it ever was." I told him that I was aware of this and thanked him for his comment.

So, tonight, our five representative parents worked through what is being called a "compromise schedule" (for this year), asked good questions, and agreed, after an hour and a half meeting, to go forward with this schedule.

The resistance to change and who makes decisions about the school is the issue with which we all have to contend. The schedule has just been a small part of the change that needs to occur for positive things to happen for all students at HVRHS. I was so proud of what I saw yesterday with our Ag Ed students and staff and all of the volunteers at the Open House. I wondered how we could get this same excitement for learning and positive involvement from our community in all parts of our school. I recognize that having four very positive teachers in that department- teachers who care about their students like their own kids- makes all of the difference.

I would hope that all of our HVRHS students could experience this same kind of care and investment in their education. I know that you all share this same belief.

Below is the email that Jose sent to the teachers tonight, which explains the schedule. It is not a major departure from what we have, but it does have two long block days, which gives a chance for the staff and students to become accustomed to an A/B schedule. I am especially pleased that we will be having "Flex" time which is what we were calling the I/E period. (We borrowed this from Litchfield. This suggestion was from the five parents tonight; I hope everyone is okay with this.) Tomorrow, he will send a communication out to all parents through the websites and Facebook sites. If you have any questions about the schedule, feel free to call either Jose or me.

We are adding five or six more parents to your group, so that the numbers are more balanced with the Lead Team. As soon as I contact the names of those who have been suggested, I will send the new group list to everyone.

Lastly, please keep Thursday, June 15 open on your calendars for a joint meeting with the Lead Team. Both Warren and Bob have that night available to facilitate a meeting. We discussed time of the meeting and think that a two hour meeting is reasonable, so we are planning for 5:30-7:30 PM.

Thank you again for all you do!
Pam