



Chinook Public Schools

PO Box 1059

Chinook, Montana 59523

Phone: (406) 357-2236 District Office: 528 Ohio Street Fax: (406) 357-2238

At this meeting the board takes official action on agenda items. Items of information and discussion may be placed on the agenda, so the board has an opportunity to solicit input from the audience on issues not requiring action. The board is bound by ethical practice, district policy, negotiated agreements and Montana statute to protect the rights of employees; therefore, comments which might be construed as evaluative of the performance of a district employee are not allowed in an open meeting.

Regular April Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 18th, 2023

7:00 PM

High School Auditorium

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call & Welcome of Visitors

IV. Public Comment for non-Agenda Items

V. Consent Agenda

A. Motion to Approve

1. Minutes of previous regular and special meetings
2. Records Disposal
3. Approve Activity warrants

4. Approve Payroll warrants

5. Approve High School Warrants Action
6. Approve Elementary Warrants Action

B. Approve Agenda (deletions, corrections, as allowed per policy)

VI. Correspondence, Reports and Petitions

A. Announcements for the Chair/Communications

B. Student Council Report

C. Presentations

E. Principal Reports

F. Superintendent's Report

VII. Quarterly Agenda Items (Action/Discussion)

A. Consideration of Termination of 1900 Policy Series (COVID)

B. Consideration and Review of District Policies: Policy 1120 (Annual Re-organizational Meeting) and 1401 (Public Records Requests) and Potential Adoption of all MTSBA Model Policies

VIII. Personnel / Staffing (Action)

A. Consideration of Resignations, if any

1. Kylie Kropf, English
2. Kasie Gandenberger, Art
3. Mike Jones, Girls Basketball Coach
4. Kaelyn Kaftan, Para
5. Rob Darrah, Janitor
6. Jade Pleninger, Para

B. Consideration of Hiring Recommendations:

1. JH/HS MBI Chair: Jill Paulsen
2. K-12 Art Teacher: Shay Waldbillig
3. 7-12 Special Education: Faith Hofman
4. K-12 Special Ed Supervisor 2023-24: Patricia Loceo
5. CHIPS (2022-23 & 2023-24): Laura Kellum (Chair), Alicia Noel, Lesa MacLeod, Stella Llante, Aaron Chriss, Jill Paulsen, Stacy Hasler, Tammy Edwards
6. Elementary Teacher: Justin Gordon
7. Elementary MBI Chair/Vice Chair: EL: Alicia Noel & JoEllen McLean
8. K-12 Maintenance: Dennis Downs
9. English Teacher: Donna Miller
10. Gifted & Talented (2022-23): Trevor Reid

IX. Unfinished Business (Action/Discussion)

A. Consideration of Activity Bus Bid Review, if any

B. Consideration of Bus Route 2 for 2023-24 School Year

X. New Business (Action)

A. Consideration of School Calendar for 2023-24 & Four (4) Day Week

B. Consideration of Committee Protocol for Board Committee Meetings

C. Consideration of Renewal of Swimming Co-op with Havre (MHSA)

D. Consideration of Isolation Status for Hartland School

E. Consideration of Authorization of Superintendent to Purchase Route Buses

F. School Election Matters. Winning Trustees via Acclimation: Rob Kelley (Chinook), Tim Malsam (Zurich), Frank Billmayer (Chinook) and Shane Stroebe (Zurich).

XI. Trustees comments and future agenda items

XII. Next Regular Meeting: May 9th at 7:00 pm *or* 7:30 pm (Summer start time)

Facilities Committee Meeting: TBD (Bus Barn Construction Recommendations / Roof Repair)

XIII. Adjournment

Notice on Public Comment

Montana law requires school districts and other public agencies to include on the agenda for public meetings an item allowing public comment on any public matter not otherwise specifically listed on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the agency.

As has also been the practice of the District, and in accordance with Montana law, if any member desires to speak to an item that is specifically listed/identified on the agenda, you will be allowed to do so when the item comes up for discussion and action. The public comment portion of the agenda is not the time designated to hear items that are specifically listed/identified on the agenda.

For those individuals who desire to address the Board during the “public comment” portion of the meeting, if you haven’t already done so, please sign your name to the sheet located by the room entrance and indicate the general topic on which you will be commenting.

The Board would like to remind everyone in attendance that to avoid violations of individual rights of privacy, a member of the public wishing to address the Board during this time will not be allowed to make comments about any student, staff member, or member of the general public during his/her designated time to speak. In addition, the Board will not hear comments on contested cases or other adjudicative proceedings.

Depending on the number of persons who wish to address the Board, the Board Chairperson may place reasonable time limits on comments, in order to maintain and ensure effective and efficient operations of the Board.

By law, the District cannot take any action on any matter discussed during the “public comment” portion of the meeting, until such time as the matter is specifically noticed on the agenda, and the public has been allowed the opportunity to comment.

4 Day Survey

236 Responses

4.13.23 4:30 pm

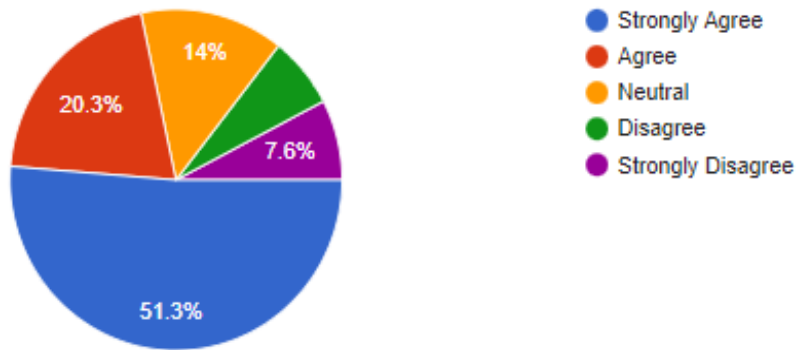
	<u>For a 4-Day Week</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Against a 4-Day Week</u>	
Community Only:	91%	0%	9%	
Staff:	90%	8%	2%	
All Parents:	76%	10%	14%	
K-6 Parents: (Only have students in EL)	79%	8%	13%	
7-12 Parents: (Only have students in JH/HS)	81%	2%	16%	
K-12 Parents: (Have students in both EL & JH/HS)	68%	17%	15%	
7-12 Students	57%	22%	21%*	<i>A number indicated their issue is the shorter lunch hour</i>
Grand Total:	72%	14%	14%	

Summary: **98%** of school staff are ok with a 4-day week
 86% of everyone surveyed are ok with a 4-day week
 14% of everyone surveyed want to stay with a 5-day week
 14% of everyone surveyed are ok with either schedule.

Are You In Favor of a Four Day School Week?

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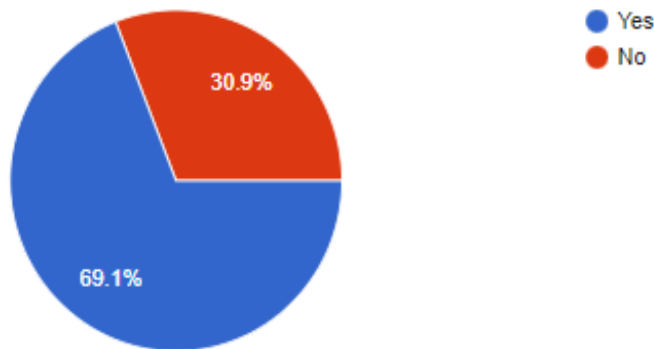
236 responses



Are you more inclined to support 4-day week schedule if tutoring and meal assistance is provided on Fridays for those who need them?

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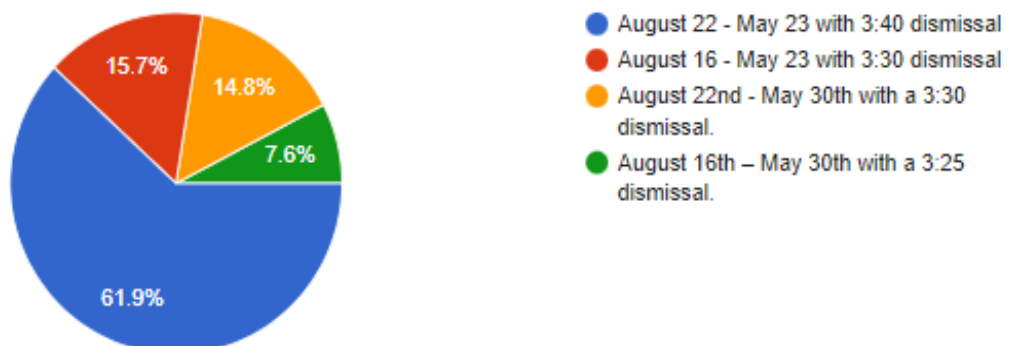
236 responses



If we moved to a 4-day week schedule, which of the listed calendar options for 2023-24, would you prefer?

 Copy

236 responses



As of April 14th, 2023: Summary of our **Budgeted** Funds & Interlocal (not budgeted) – We are roughly about 60% through the school year, expense wise.

FUND	Budgeted / Starting	Expenditures	Balance	% Remaining
General (101)	\$1,359,186.08	\$2,073,748.00	66%	34%
Transportation (110)	\$111,381.92	\$180,000.00	62%	38%
Tuition (113)	\$17,834.12	\$75,000.00	24%	76%
Retirement (114)	\$171,976.31	\$350,000.00	49%	51%
Technology (128)	\$65,117.84	\$99,203.00	66%	34%
Flex (129)	\$659.46	\$29,461.00	2%	98%
Building Reserve (161)	\$41,341.92	\$85,194.00	49%	51%
Interlocal (182)	\$112,183.92	\$207,497.12	54%	46%
 				
General (201)	\$932,773.70	\$1,411,371.00	66%	34%
Transportation (210)	\$116,680.77	\$200,000.00	58%	42%
Bus Depreciation (211)	\$0.00	\$362,370.00	0%	100%
Tuition (213)	\$83,669.95	\$325,000.00	26%	74%
Retirement (214)	\$106,406.34	\$300,000.00	35%	65%
Adult Education (217)	\$4,527.18	\$24,250.00	19%	81%
Technology (228)	\$59,592.32	\$64,076.00	93%	7%
Flex (229)	\$27,367.52	\$48,812.00	56%	44%
Building Reserve (261)	\$122,463.96	\$197,236.00	62%	38%

General Fund Update

2022-23 (FY 23)

Elementary Mill: \$4,770.08

Current Year

High School Mill: \$8,409.11

	Elementary	High School
Mills	130.57	56.41
Local Tax Revenue	\$622,955.21	\$474,481
General Fund Budget (GFB)	\$2,073,748	\$1,411,371

2023-24 (FY 24)

* Pre-session numbers & FY 23 taxable valuation used – *these numbers will change!*

Elementary Mill: TBD

High School Mill: TBD

**using FY 23 Tax Valuations*

	Elementary	High School
Mills	119.11	58.53
Increase/Decrease:	(-) 11.46	+2.12
Local Tax Revenue	\$568,164	\$492,185
Increase/Decrease:	(-) \$54,791	+ \$17,704
General Fund Budget	\$2,117,125.05	\$1,444,670.22
Increase/Decrease:	+ \$43,377.05	+ \$33,299.22



Budget Report FY 2023

03 Blaine

Submit ID: 0028-59387367

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Adopted Budget

Remaining tax funds from the prior year
help offset taxes for current year
(We sometimes save money & give it back)

State Funding

Local Taxes

Fund [A]	Adopted Budget [B]	Total Reserves (961-966) [C]	Reserve Limit [D]	% of Adopted Budget Reserved (C/B) x 100 [E]	Unreserved Fund Balance Reappropriated (970) [F]	Other Revenue [G]	District Property Tax Requirements (B - F - G = H) If < 0, enter 0 [H]	District Mill Levies H / (TV x .001) [I]
01 General	2,073,748.00	209,580.28	10%	10.11%	11,961.93	1,438,830.86	622,955.21	130.57
10 Transportation	180,000.00	26,076.73	20%	14.49%	0.00	33,418.26	146,581.74	30.73
11 Bus Depreciation Reserve	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13 Tuition	75,000.00		N/A		1,536.31	0.00	73,463.69	15.40
14 Retirement	350,000.00	70,000.00	20%	20.00%	13,583.67	336,416.33		
17 Adult Education	4,750.00	0.00	35%	0.00%	0.00	0.00	4,750.00	1.00
19 Non-Operating	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28 Technology	99,203.00	0.47	N/A	0.00%	37,646.50	1,556.50	60,000.00	12.58
29 Flexibility	29,461.00	0.44	N/A	0.00%	29,461.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61 Building Reserve	85,194.00	0.72	N/A	0.00%	42,694.00	17,500.00	25,000.00	5.24
Total of All Funds	2,897,356.00	305,658.64			136,883.41	1,827,721.95	932,750.64	195.52

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Summary

Fund [A]	Adopted Budget [B]	Total Reserves (961-966) [C]	Reserve Limit [D]	% of Adopted Budget Reserved (C/B) x 100 [E]	Unreserved Fund Balance Reappropriated (970) [F]	Other Revenue [G]	District Property Tax Requirements (B - F - G = H) If < 0, enter 0 [H]	District Mill Levies H / (TV x .001) [I]
01 General	1,411,371.00	142,331.16	10%	10.08%	42,599.96	894,289.55	474,481.49	56.41
10 Transportation	200,000.00	40,000.00	20%	20.00%	1,110.08	33,418.26	165,471.66	19.68
11 Bus Depreciation Reserve	362,370.00	0.87	N/A	0.00%	252,024.44	0.00	110,345.56	13.12
13 Tuition	325,000.00		N/A		13,885.98	0.00	311,114.02	37.00
14 Retirement	300,000.00	60,000.00	20%	20.00%	92,717.98	207,282.02		
17 Adult Education	24,250.00	0.00	35%	0.00%	15,817.45	0.00	8,432.55	1.00
19 Non-Operating	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28 Technology	64,076.00	0.83	N/A	0.00%	28,028.28	1,047.72	35,000.00	4.16
29 Flexibility	48,812.00	0.75	N/A	0.00%	48,812.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61 Building Reserve	197,236.00	0.40	N/A	0.00%	129,806.00	17,430.00	50,000.00	5.95
Total of All Funds	2,933,115.00	242,334.01			624,802.17	1,153,467.55	1,154,845.28	137.32

Records Available to Public

All District records except those restricted by state and federal law shall be available to citizens for inspection at the clerk's office.

In accordance with § 20-9-213(1), MCA, the record of the accounting of school funds shall be open to public inspection at any meeting of the trustees. A fee may be charged for any copies requested. Copies will be available within a reasonable amount of time following the request.

A written copy of the Board's minutes shall be available to the general public within 5 working days following approval of the minutes of the Board. If requested, one free copy shall be provided to local press within 5 working days following approval by the Board.

Fees will be charged as follows:

- a) Copy of Board of Trustee minutes - 15¢ per page
- b) Copy of other materials - 25¢ per page
- c) Time spent researching a copy project will be charged at the employee's hourly rate of pay.

Legal Reference: § 20-9-213, MCA Duties of Trustees
 § 20-3-323, MCA District Policy and Record of Acts

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 1998

Revised on:

4
5 Annual Organization Meeting

6
7 After issuance of election certificates to newly elected trustees, but no later than twenty-five (25)
8 days after the election, the Board shall elect from among its members a Chairperson and a Vice
9 Chairperson to serve until the next annual organizational meeting. If a Board member is unable
10 to continue to serve as an officer, a replacement shall be elected at the earliest opportunity to
11 serve the remainder of the term. In the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice
12 Chairperson, the Board shall elect a Chairperson *pro tempore*, who shall perform the functions of
13 the Chairperson during the latter's absence. The Clerk shall act as Board secretary.

14
15 The normal order of business shall be modified for the annual organizational meeting by
16 considering the following matters after the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting:

- 17
- 18 1. Welcome and introduction of newly elected Board members by the current Chairperson
- 19
- 20 2. Swearing in of newly elected trustees
- 21
- 22 3. Call for nominations for Chairperson to serve during the ensuing year
- 23
- 24 4. Election of a Chairperson
- 25
- 26 5. Assumption of office by the new Chairperson
- 27
- 28 6. Call for nominations for Vice Chairperson to serve during the ensuing year
- 29
- 30 7. Election of a Vice Chairperson
- 31
- 32 8. Appointment of a Clerk
- 33
- 34
- 35

36 Legal References:	§ 20-3-321, MCA	Organization and officers
	§ 20-3-322(a), MCA	Meetings and quorum
	Title 1, Chapter 5, Part 6, MCA	Notarial Acts

39
40 Policy History:

41 Adopted on:
42 Reviewed on:
43 Revised on:

Survey Comments:

Moving to a four-day school week would allow us to be more competitive when hiring and retaining good quality teachers.

Moving to a four day week does not change the number of instructional hours a student would receive.

While childcare may be an issue for some, the function of a school is to educate children, not provide childcare services.

A 5 day school week will leave no option but for parents to put their kids into districts that can hire, attain and compensate the educated and qualified staff they deserve.

Great help for agriculture families. Would also make a difference on bussing agenda.

More class time will be saved with a 4 day week since fewer students will miss class for activities on Fridays.

If we started a few days earlier or went a few days longer could we get rid of structured recess?

This concerns me for the parents that work 5 days. Daycare is tough to afford as it is, if you add another day that they have to pay 8-5, you are worsening the job pool for local businesses as well. I do not like the idea, it has always bothered me and I truly don't believe this is a good move for Chinook as kids need something to keep them entertained, and if their parents are working, they are going to get into trouble, period.

As a current employee of the Meadowlark, my experience is that a 5 day work week is exhausting. I believe a 4 day work week would help retain the staff we currently have and retain them as employees for more years .

Studies have shown the benefits of a 4 day week outweigh a 5 day week and are readily accessible online. Staying a 5 day week would end up being detrimental to Chinook schools and allows the students who are not active in sports to be afforded the same perceived time off as the sports playing students.

I did not want to answer the last question because it does not apply! You should really have the option for none!! This is by all means coddling the children and the teachers in every way possible! You are teaching our future generations of children that a 5 day work week is just not acceptable. Maybe we should be offering GOOD teachers (that have their teaching degree) and WANT to be there for the children not just because they need a job, a better wage!!!! Everything about this 4 day school week I am 100% against!

Bring back work values to children, bring back the music program for the children, stop pushing sports so hard that every good thing that children should be learning is pushed to the side and they don't know how to be adults when they get there!! My child has not learned a thing this year besides how to be unorganized and worry about how he/she will make it the following year.

Would like to know more about who would be determined to need assistance on Fridays. As a working mother having my kids home alone all day Friday may pose a problem if no options are available

Not a concern of mine now but a few years ago finding daycare on Fridays would have been a huge concern of mine. Concerned for the families with two parents working plus daycare is hard to find and expensive.

I think a 4 day week would be great for the children of Chinook

I believe we should have moved to a 4 day week years ago.

Need to keep up with other schools, keeps teacher morale up. Students do not do anything at the HS when the sports teams are gone on. It's a completely wasted teaching day if they are not in sports.

I strongly support a 4 day school week. With moving to Class B, the kids are going to be leaving before lunch on Friday's due to longer trips.

A 4-day school week is a terrible plan for Chinook. There are so many elementary parents who work full-time, Monday-Friday outside the home who would be forced to find daycare on Fridays, for one or more children. Not only is this a financial burden on these parents, but it's also unrealistic in terms of finding daycare facilities with enough openings to accommodate this huge influx of elementary kids. Kids are supposed to be at least 10 years old before being left home alone for any period of time. Kids who are too young to be left home alone will end up being left alone because parents cannot afford daycare or cannot find daycare. Or, parents will face the decision of having to quit their jobs because employers are not going to close on Fridays. A 5-day schedule allows full-time working parents the ability to continue working. The world doesn't operate 4 days a week. It doesn't make sense to close banks, local government offices, and other businesses on Fridays and it doesn't make sense to close our schools either. What about children with disabilities? These children need 5 days a week of services they receive in school, and they especially benefit from the structure of a classroom environment 5 days a week. Bear Paw Co-op closing on Fridays is news to me and makes no sense. Kids benefit more being taught in school on Fridays, rather than being stuck at home with a babysitter or in a daycare facility. Please allow me to keep working full-time to support my family and do not implement a 4-day school week! Please let my kids come to school on Fridays to learn. There simply aren't enough positives to a 4-day week for most families, or for this community. I also think it is wrong to put out this survey and only include arguments or "rationale" FOR switching and not include arguments AGAINST. I am strongly against a 4-day school week at the Meadowlark.

Keep in mind that although we are an ag based town many families have both parents work full time away from home. Child care will be an issue.

Just because everyone else is doing it is not a good reason.

I would hope that with a 4 day week will cut back on teacher absence. Maybe rework contracts for paid days off? The more our salaried employees are at work the less we spend on subs the more we have to pay full time staff.

Structured recess is a joke. Let the kids have there time.

If we want to be able to compete with other schools for good teachers, we need to make the change to a 4 day week.

I don't like structured recess. My kids have had them and they would much rather have an actual recess. Poor way to make up time in my opinion

I have mixed feelings about this; however, as my children get older, a four day school week becomes more attractive. My main concern is that the quality of education may decrease with a shorter school week.

I think we will need to hire more bottom of the barrel teachers and/or teachers from overseas who may not always communicate the best (great people, don't get me wrong) or even go without a teacher in some areas. How does that help the kids? Sure, some good teachers may come our way, but clearly not enough. If we truly value the teachers that we currently have, what is it that they are requesting? Are they not our resident experts on education?

I think it makes sense to go to a 4 day school week. Many schools are going to a 4 day week and the schools who have chosen the 4 day week have had great success and better attendance. I think it helps with cutting down illnesses and the students are more productive.

It could be discriminatory towards lower income working parents who now either have to find extra money for daycare or make the decision to leave their child home alone. Even with older children being left home alone unattended it is not in their best interest. In todays society people already don't want to work 5 days a week, as the reasoning for the 4 day week proves. Now if children don't even go to school 5 days a week how can we ever expect them to be willing to work 5 days a week. Also, with talking with current teachers students learn way less towards the end of the school day already, if the school day is extended even longer there will be even less quality learning time, especially in the lower grades. Also, now you're going to take away their free recess time & make them sit longer, again leading to less quality learning time. If talking about less time missed for sports activities, look at the current sports schedules & see how many events land outside of Fridays & Saturdays. Look at the disadvantage it puts these students at who are now missing school with a shortened week. Look at how often kids have to leave before the school day is over for travel to these events & how much of the afternoon classes will be missed. Also, look how late sports practices currently run. We have JH kids not leaving the gym until 9pm, now that is going to be pushed back even later.

I'd actually prefer a 5 day week but Quit worrying about the sports kids and give more time for winter/spring breaks! The basket ball kids can make up for work missed like the ones in any other sport or FFA have to. Since we take so many fridays off currently for sports it only makes sense to do the 4 day week but attention to winter/spring break is needed also.

Right now, Fridays you can't even get anything started before you have to clean up. Kids actually can't even begin to focus, then the class period is over. If each day (the 4 days) we were in class and the class time was extended, we could probably get a lot more accomplished before it was time to clean up. I believe with time to breath on Fridays and if we didn't have the rush, everyone could regather thoughts, prepare and gather supplies. Teachers wouldn't have to use time from their weekends to do such prep work. The teachers in other hi-line schools get to do just that. We are going to have to be competitive in that aspect, because that is going to be the new normal for almost everyone. People from schools with 4 days are talking (kids, teachers and parents) how better it is and that they will never go back to 5 days. I think we need to go into this with an open mind, try it, if it works, awesome, if it don't, we can always go back. But I think we will all be better off mentally, kids, teachers and parents. Could you imagine if we had a day to reflect and prepare, catch up, or just breathe. Not rush through Friday and get hardly anything accomplished. I want to try it and see if there is a difference in my students and my children's health, mindsets, and attitudes.

I don't believe this is what is best for the children. All I see with this change is how it is for the teachers, not the students and especially not the families in the community. Kids need to be in school, not staying home alone, or in a daycare. They need that Friday not just to have a place to be, but that will be a day missed learning, and socializing in a safe environment. Kids can only absorb so much in so many hour a day, so making the hours longer is not going to benefit our kids. It will just put more pressure on them. It going to hurt our kids, its going to hurt the families in the community, and its going to hurt businesses.

I fully support a 4 day school week as long as our students are receiving quality instructional minutes. A 4 day school week will definitely improve our ability to recruit and retain teachers, as the schools around us are either already on a 4 day week or are currently considering a 4 day week.

If we go to a four day school week and still cant find teachers how would our subbing look. If we cant find teachers and subs how high would the chance be that we would go online.

would our practice times be affected. Would this make things like swim team and soft ball be school sports, if not how would you corroborate with summer sports. Also would our Saturday school be moved to Friday. And even if you find daycare for the younger kids how would you prevent the teenagers from being destructive and reckless.

How will people online do work will there be more work? What are we going to do about the job openings if we don't have teachers do we just have subs? Is the Christmas break still the same? So what are you going to do during the four day weekend.

we need long lunch is

This will help out with sport. And I work for the schools and that will also help with me not taking off so many days do to supporting my kids.

Four day school week gives us a longer weekend.

What would happen to classified staff for their hours?

For Fridays I say we have the half an hour class like last year where we only have half an hour of class and school day that's what I say we do is return the half a class and school day.

If we move to the 4-day schedule, I feel lunch should be at least 40 minutes long. It's already rushed with 45 minutes, and 10 minutes less would shorten our only time to get outside during the day by quite a bit. I understand the need to move to a 4-day week to attract more teachers, and hope the rest of the community will understand as well.

I am worried about the amount of time students and teachers will have during lunch due to the cut back. It has been mentioned that there with be a 35-minute lunch period but, when looking at the schedule it is 30 minutes. So my question is whether it will be 30 or 35 minutes?

It is more boring and longer

I would like to be ahead in education then behind.

I think we should just have normal school

I think it would be best if we stayed with a 5 day week.

It doesn't make much of a difference to me cause school is school.

What happens to after school study hall?

I strongly agree with this, this to happen.

plz more options than just milk.

I support the four day week with a longer school day, a longer school year, tutoring on fridays and after school tutoring.