

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Office of the Assistant Superintendent

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Instructional Week 2017-18

In order to understand our recommendation it is important to analyze our current structure and understand why it was developed. In the past, the instructional week was designed to provide time for teacher collaboration, PLC or curriculum implementation time.

Last year as a direct result of our budget challenges we examined ways of altering the work week within the confines of the collective agreement in order to do the following two things:

1. by redesigning how prep time was distributed we were able to save on teacher staffing; and
2. by making recess instructional time at the elementary level, we were able to provide teachers with curriculum implementation time which was important as the new curriculum was being fully implemented at K-9.

As a result of the arbitration award we were required to implement prep time during the instructional day at elementary as well as provide teachers with a regularly scheduled morning recess break.

In planning for the 2017/18 school year, we analyzed the feedback we received from our parent and school communities regarding the current model as well as considering the limitations and opportunities that our collective agreement presents. In order to meet the required instructional hours as outlined by the ministry, and the requirements of the collective agreement we, unfortunately, will not be able to structure a week that contains curriculum implementation time as part of the work day at the elementary level.

At the secondary level we analyzed our feedback from our parent and school communities as well as the limitations and opportunities from our collective agreement. We have the ability to have some curriculum implementation time but we are not able to operationalize it due to transportation restrictions and budgetary concerns. However, as we have stated all along, our goal is to continue to offer differentiated learning opportunities on Fridays. We have instructed our school administrators to work with their staff and school communities in developing a model that is responsive to not only student needs but also addresses the new redesigned curriculum. It is our hope that collaboratively these sites will be able to develop enriching and rewarding learning opportunities for our students.

A week at a glance 2017-2018

The week next year will be structured in similar fashion to what it was in 2015/16 school year:

- *Elementary* – 8:45 am to 2:30 pm Monday to Friday, site specific times to be established.
- *Secondary* – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday, site specific times to be established.

Conclusion

Although research suggests embedded time for teachers to collaborate and work together to implement change (ie. Redesigned curriculum, assessment practices, learning strategies, etc) is the most effective model, unfortunately we are not able to continue to do this at the elementary level. We will, however, continue to have ongoing discussions to explore options which may provide us with this time in the future.

A detailed outline of school schedules will be coming from individual schools prior to the end of the year. Secondary school differentiated instructional plans will also be part of this communication.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the Instructional Week for 2017-18 as presented.
[CARRIED 5/5]