

LAMPETER-STRASBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lampeter, Pennsylvania 17537

Academic Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023

Mr. Matthew Parido called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Board Members, Mr. Matthew E. Parido, Mrs. Kari A. Steinbacher; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Andrew M. Godfrey; Community Members, Mrs. Amanda Schlee and Mrs. Kristina Szoke; Martin Meylin Middle School Principal, Mrs. Alicia Kowitz; Martin Meylin Middle School Assistant Principal, Mr. Cory Robison; Middle School Staff, Mrs. Paula Long, Mrs. Michelle Kennedy, and Mr. Rebecca Middleton.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Textbook Update – Elementary Mathematics

Dr. Godfrey provided the Committee an update on the adoption timeline for a new mathematics textbook for elementary students. He shared that he learned in the fall that the book selected is no longer available as a result of the publisher discontinuing the series abruptly. The Committee was informed that the publisher has supplied the District with free materials for the 2023-2024 school year as a result. A new adoption timeline has been established to provide students with new materials beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Dr. Godfrey also shared that the request financial allocation to support the adoption would be moved back a year and would be reflected in the future budget projections.

2. Martin Meylin Middle School Schedule Update – Mrs. Alicia Kowitz

Mrs. Kowitz, Mr. Robison, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Middleton, and Mrs. Kennedy provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed new instructional schedule for Martin Meylin Middle School beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The presentation is attached.

The new schedule was positively received by the Committee. Mrs. Kowitz also ensured a plan is in place to communicate the new schedule to parents.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Martin Meylin Scheduling

2023-2024: A revision



Purpose: Why change the schedule?

- Scheduling of intervention and enrichment is difficult with the current layout of courses.
- Nine grade level sections create unique scheduling challenges and inequity of teaching loads.
- Loss of student/teacher teaming over the last several years has created a disconnect and loss of team identity for students.
- Insufficient amount of time to meet student needs for additional help.
- Students balancing heavy courseload with grading periods ending at quarter, trimester, and semester.

Process: How did we arrive where we did?

August 2022

- Evaluation and revision of building schedule to support engagement and ensure that instructional time is meeting the needs of all learners is identified as a Martin Meylin Building Goal.

September 2022

- Communication with Martin Meylin Leadership Team regarding priority of bell schedule and their role as building leadership.

October 2022

- Leadership Team developed comprehensive list of building priorities for scheduling.

October - December 2022

- Building administrative team develops first draft of schedule based on priorities.

Process: How did we arrive where we did?

December 2022-February 2023

- First draft of schedule presented to district administration for feedback and approval.
- First draft of schedule presented to Martin Meylin Leadership Team for feedback.
- First draft of schedule presented to Martin Meylin staff.

February-April 2023

- Fine-tuned revisions to first draft.
- Identification of curricular needs/redevelopment of curriculum as needed.
- Continued Leadership Team discussions.

Priorities: What was identified as important?

- ❑ Multiple Team meetings per cycle week
- ❑ Time for delivery of interventions
- ❑ Additional time for help/intervention outside of DA
- ❑ Team time with students
- ❑ Equal number of sections per team
- ❑ Mosaic schedule
- ❑ Grade level content collaboration time
- ❑ Do we need to continue with cycle days?
- ❑ Decoupling of Creative Arts placement with ELA
- ❑ Fidelity of students placed on teams
- ❑ Examine complexity of scheduling 9 ELA periods
- ❑ Spreading out paras/students with needs

Highlights: What changes?

- Seven instructional period day: 2 periods of Creative Arts running back to back in each grade level, 4 Core instruction period, 1 flexible period
- Daily flexible instruction period, in addition to DA, for targeted intervention, enrichment, reading support, G/IEP supports, data-driven teacher remediation, delivery of group interventions, team time, and/or social and emotional lessons and activities.
- Two pure teams per grade level, 4 sections per team, with no core content teachers teaching on the opposite team.
- Creative Arts courses no longer tied to ELA sections, running consecutively for 45 or 90 days.
- Allowance of 2 team meetings each cycle, grade level department collaboration, and duty periods within the school day to open DA availability for all teachers.



What does it look like?

Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
Homeroom	12 mins	Homeroom	12 mins	Homeroom	12 mins
Core AB	47 mins	Creative Arts AB	47 mins	Core AB	47 mins
Core A Flex B	47 mins	Creative Arts AB	47 mins	Core AB	47 mins
Core AB	47 mins	Core A Flex B	47 mins	Creative Arts AB	47 mins
Flex A Core B	47 mins	Core AB	47 mins	Creative Arts AB	47 mins
LUNCH	30 mins	Core AB	47 mins	Core A Flex B	47 mins
Core AB	47 mins	LUNCH	30 mins	Core AB	47 mins
Creative Arts AB	47 mins	Flex A Core B	47 mins	LUNCH	30 mins
Creative Arts AB	47 mins	Core AB	47 mins	Flex A Core B	47 mins
DA	32 mins	DA	32 mins	DA	32 mins

Creative Arts

Homeroom

7th grade Block 1

7th grade Block 2

8th grade Block 1

8th grade Block 2

LUNCH

PLANNING

6th grade Block 1

6th grade Block 2

DA

Team A:

Art/Music/TE/Health for full marking period

Team B:

FL (2) or PE (2) for full semester

Team A:

FL (2) or PE (2) for full semester

Team B:

Art/Music/TE/Health for full marking period

Team A:

Art/Music/TE/Health for full marking period

Team B:

FL (2) or PE (2) for full semester

Team A:

FL (2) or PE (2) for full semester

Team B:

Art/Music/TE/Health for full marking period

Team A:

Art/Music/TE/Health for full marking period

Team B:

FL (2) or PE (2) for full semester

Team A:

FL (2) or PE (2) for full semester

Team B:

Art/Music/TE/Health for full marking period

	Total contact time by course (based on 53/47 min pds)			
	22-23	22-23 mins	23-24	23-24 mins
Art	30 days	1590 mins	45 days	2115 mins
Music	30 days	1590 mins	45 days	2115 mins
Health	30 days	1590 mins	45 days	2115 mins
Tech Ed	30 days	1590 mins	45 days	2115 mins
FL	60 days	3180 mins	90 days	4230 mins
PE	60 days	3180 mins	90 days	4230 mins
Guidance	15 days (6)	795 mins	push in	
Lib/Comp	15 days(6)	795 mins	push in	
F/W	30 days (7/8)	1590 mins	comb. with PE	
ELA	180+90 days	14310 mins	180+60 days	11280 mins
Math	180 days	9540 mins	180+60 days	11280 mins
Science	180 days	9540 mins	180 days	8460 mins
Social Studies	180 days	9540 mins	180 days	8460 mins

Benefits and Impact on Learning

- Addition of flexible period each day provides a truly flexible opportunity for supports, interventions, additional help in any content area rather than additional instructional time being devoted solely to English Language Arts.
- Students balancing only two Creative Arts courses at one time, instead of up to four, with consistent ends to grading periods.
- Two teams per grade level with four core content teachers per team allows for teams to be equitable with no crossover students, helping to build identity and relationships.
- Strong instructional programming is supported with addition of team and content collaboration time for data analysis, student support, instruction and assessment planning.
- Flexible instructional minutes allow for additional time where data shows students are in need.

Next Steps

- Examination and potential revision of Creative Arts curricula with increased instructional time in six course offerings.
- Identification of curricular needs for core content courses and redevelopment as needed.
- Staff development opportunities for successful implementation of flexible instruction period.
- Fine-tuned revisions to bell schedule and placement of lunches and flexible periods.