

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

South Anchorage High School  
Minutes of Academic Programs / SLCs Committee Meeting  
January 29, 2004

The meeting began with introductions of several new parents who joined the committee.

**Collette Marshall**, the Curriculum Assistant Principal, from West High School presented the West High School Schedule. At the end of her presentation she responded to several questions and comments relative the schedule and how their community feels about it. Ms. Marshall maintained that one of the positive aspects of the schedule is that it provides for longer blocking of time in four time blocks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. Mondays and Fridays are scheduled with the traditional six period day. This allows teachers to see their students at least four times each week and have significant flexibility for longer instructional activities with the three block days in the middle of the week. Drawbacks to the schedule were that, in some cases, math students were not progressing quite as quickly as those on a traditional six-period day schedule and students who wanted to leave West to take college classes or classes at other ASD schools had to work through a schedule that had their classes meeting at different times each week.

**Pete Tryon**, our new Technology Coordinator and current BHS Computer teacher, presented the Bartlett Rotating Block Schedule. This schedule serves as a pure block model that has a three day, rotating block cycle. In any given day, students only meet in four of their six classes. The classes are 80 minutes in length and there are only two passing periods besides lunch each day. Major positive aspects of this schedule include increased flexibility relative to instructional activities in all classes due to the longer periods, fewer passing times, and minimized impact of activity schedules on the school day because each of the periods are longer to begin with. Drawbacks include seeing the students fewer times each week than even the West HS schedule, slower progress in lower level math classes than what is normally the case in a six-period schedule, and the difficulty of scheduling classes at other high schools and/or universities due to the Bartlett classes meeting at different times each week.

Additional discussion by the committee elicited the desire by some of the future SAHS teachers currently teaching at Bartlett calling for our new school to implement the West HS schedule. They felt that it would “be the best of both worlds,” meeting more often with students, but having longer teaching blocks built into the schedule in the middle of the week. Several parents also voiced their support to try the West HS model next year. Mr. Fannin indicated that the committee members should go out and try to recruit more teachers, parents, and students for the next committee meeting where an advisory vote would be taken. In addition, he asked the future SAHS teachers in attendance who currently teach at Service HS and Dimond HS to enter into dialogues with colleagues at those schools relative to the West HS model to get their views and to see if it would be something that their schools might consider in the future.

A limited discussion on the open vs. closed campus question followed. Some of the points that were made included the desire by staff and students to have a single lunch and all the benefits that a single lunch provides (all students having access to each other and all teachers, and the full participation of all students in lunchtime club and team meetings etc. – a closed campus would require multiple lunches), the assertion that students should be able to demonstrate that they can

responsibly handle leaving campus during the lunch period, and the question of equity in closing the SAHS Campus while the other six comprehensive high schools remain open. It also was noted that the open vs. closed campus discussion would be addressed in the next School-Wide Discipline / Positive School Climate Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded with the members looking at four different logo models and giving their feedback relative to their preferences. No clear preference was identified by the group. Each logo garnered some support. Mr. Fannin indicated that he would continue to elicit feedback on the logos. The logo needs to be selected and camera ready by mid February.