

**ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA BACKUP**

Regular Meeting of June 8, 2021

ITEM: **ALBANY MIDDLE SCHOOL PROPOSED BELL SCHEDULE CHANGE**

PREPARED BY: **MARIE WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
DEB BRILL, ALBANY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

TYPE OF ITEM: **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is for the Governing Board to review and discuss the proposed Albany Middle School bell schedule for 2021-2022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND DETAILS:

AMS has gone through a process for moving start times and creating a modified block schedule. Research about teen sleep patterns is clear; teens' body rhythms have them up later and sleeping in later. AMS would like to support this by shifting the school start time.

In the proposed schedule, the start time has moved 20 minutes later for two reasons. First, to be mindful of the AHS proposed start time of 8:30am and to prevent unnecessary traffic jams for parents. Second, to be mindful of student athletes and not have them miss too much class unnecessarily.

AMS has been exploring the possibility of moving to a block schedule for about eight years. This year, after implementing an alternative schedule due to COVID-19, more teachers expressed interest in pursuing a block schedule because of the obvious benefits of longer periods of time to go into more depth, do more projects and hands-on activities, and have time for social emotional connection. An added benefit of moving to a modified block schedule is to minimize lost instructional time due to transitions. Students who struggle the most tend to have a hard time with transitions (ie., moving from one class to the next). However, the site is proposing two days of block schedule per week to ensure that there are not too many gaps of instruction, particularly in language and mathematics, and that students in support classes receive those services at least four times a week.

At the end of next school year, as well as along the way, the site will evaluate how the block scheduling is going and determine our proposal for the following year if additional adjustments are necessary.

STRATEGIC GOALS ADDRESSED:



Objective #3: Communicate and Lead Together.

Goal: All stakeholders will collaborate and communicate about decisions that guide the sites and district.

**RECOMMENDATION: REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE ALBANY MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROPOSED BELL SCHEDULE CHANGE.**