

**Minnesota Association of
School Administrators
Fall Conference
September 29, 2009**



**Welcome
School
Leaders!**



**“Four-Day School Week:
One Year Later – What
We’ve Learned”**



Reasons to Transition to a Four-Day Week

- Reduce expenses
- Maintain elective offerings
- Minimize staff reductions

9/21/09

4

Staff Demographics

- Approximately 100 total staff members – bus drivers are not MACCRAY's employees
- Slightly more than half of MACCRAY's certified staff members are 50 years of age or more and have served the district for 20 or more years
- Several other certified staff members are over 50, but haven't served in the district for 20 years

9/21/09

5

MACCRAY's Budget



- General fund reduced by \$800,000 from 2006-07 to 2007-08 = 11%
- General fund reduced by another \$300,000 from 2007-08 to 2008-09
- General fund reduced by another \$300,000 from 2008-09 to 2009-10
- General Fund is now at approximately \$6.6 million

9/21/09

6

Research Suggested These Benefits

- More environmentally friendly
- Increase enrollment
- Improve attendance of students and staff
- Improve student morale
- Decrease discipline referrals
- Save money

9/21/09

7

Research re: Effects on Students

- Students reported having better attitudes toward school
- Academic achievement and standardized test scores reported to be the same or higher
- More instructional time available
- Longer class periods allow for more material to be covered
- Greater likelihood of student appointments being scheduled for days off
- More family time available

9/21/09

8

Research re: Effects on Teachers

- Fewer absences – teachers can schedule appointments on days off
- Less need for substitute teachers
- Increased staff development time

9/21/09

9

MACCRAY's Estimated Savings

• Substitute Teacher Costs	\$9,023
• Transportation Costs	\$65,201
• Energy Savings	\$16,374
• Maintenance Costs	\$3,611
• Faculty Mileage Reimbursement	<u>\$994</u>
Total	\$95,203

9/21/09

10

Snapshot of MACCRAY's 4-Day Week

9/21/09

11

4-Day Schedule

- Monday is the "off day".
- Staff in-service days were moved from Fridays to Mondays.
- School was scheduled on nine (9) Mondays in 2008-09. School is scheduled on eight (8) Mondays in 2009-10.
- In 2008-09 there were four (4) five-day weeks throughout the year. There are three (3) five-day weeks in 2009-10.

9/21/09

12

From MACCRAY's perspective Mondays could be used to:

- Complete homework
- Work on projects
- Work at a part-time job
- Complete 20 hour/year service learning requirement

9/21/09

13

Student Day

2007-08		2008-09	
• 1 st bell	8:12 a.m.	• 1 st Bell	7:57 a.m.
• Period 1	8:15 – 9:02	• Period 1	8:00 – 8:55
• Period 2	9:05 – 9:52	• Period 2	8:58 – 9:53
• Period 3	9:55 – 10:42	• Period 3	9:56 – 10:51
• Period 4	10:45 – 11:32	• Period 4	10:54 – 11:49
• 1 st Lunch	11:32 – 11:57	• 1 st Lunch	11:49 – 12:14
• Period 5A	11:35 – 12:22	• Period 5A	11:52 – 12:47
• Period 5B	11:57 – 12:44	• Period 5B	12:14 – 1:09
• 2 nd Lunch	12:22 – 12:47	• 2 nd Lunch	12:47 – 1:12
• Period 6	12:47 – 1:34	• Period 6	1:12 – 2:07
• Period 7	1:37 – 2:24	• Period 7	2:10 – 3:05
• Period 8	2:27 – 3:14	• Period 8	3:09 – 4:04

47 minute class periods

55 minute class periods
Additional 65 minutes per day

9/21/09

14

Instructional Time

2007-08

419 min/day x 172 days: 72,068 minutes
Excluding lunch (25 min.) & passing time (18 min.)
376 min/day x 172 days = 64,672 minutes

2008-09**

484 min/day x 149 days: 72,116 minutes
Excluding lunch (25 min.) & passing time (18 min.)
441 min/day x 149 days = 65,709 minutes

Actual Gain in Instructional Time:
1,037 minutes (17.28 hours) annually

9/21/09

15

Teacher Day

2007-08

- 7:45 a.m.–3:44 p.m.
- 172 student days
- 7 in-service days
- 2 conference days
- 181 contract days

2008-09 & 2009-10

- 7:30 a.m. – 4:34 p.m.
- 149 student days
- 8.5 in-service days
- 2 conference days
- 159.4 contract days



9/21/09

16

Extracurricular Activities

- Practices end later (6:15), except on Wednesday - Community Night (5:45).
- Events and activities occurred on Monday evenings as usual. Did reschedule events when possible.
- Thermostats were not turned up for Monday practices, games, activities
- No junior high practices on days off



9/21/09

17


Our Communities

- With the extended school day, many students' schedules better aligned with parents' work schedules
- Child care – Families needed to make adjustments due to change in schedule
 - Many daycare providers charge a "flat" fee
 - MACCRAY Community education (in partnership with 4-H) trained students as babysitters
 - Fun Day Mondays @ Willmar YMCA
 - Many community education special events are scheduled on Mondays

9/21/09

18


Evaluation



9/21/09 19

MACCRAY's Evaluation Plan


- Parents, students, staff surveys
- Community members' surveys
- Outside evaluations (did not do this)
- Assess test scores, failure rates, behavior data, and absentee rates for students and staff
- Compare 2008-09 expenses with 2007-08 expenses



9/21/09 20

What We've Learned...

- Days are especially long for students that ride the bus
 - A few students are picked up as early as 6:40 compared to 6:50 a.m. in 2007-08
 - Elementary-age students get home as late as 5:10 p.m.
 - Some high school students don't get home from practice until between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.
- Extra-curricular practices
 - Coaches in many cases have been more organized and practices more intentional and efficient – less "down time" during practice
 - Go later into the evening than in the past



9/21/09 21

What We've Learned (continued...)

- Practices are shorter on Wednesdays (4:15-5:45)
- Evenings are noticeably shorter for students and staff members
- Students enjoy having Mondays off
- Staff members enjoy having Mondays off
- A few staff members have had difficulty with the adjustment.

9/21/09

22

Academic Impact

- No negative academic impact has been identified at the K-7 level with either grades or test scores. Failure rates improved.
- No issues with information retention have been identified by the staff in our special education population. MACCRAY's special education population is high compared to surrounding districts and the state average. 17% of MACCRAY's students were on IEPs in 2008-09. The state average is 13%.
- MACCRAY's senior high students did not make AYP in the free and reduced sub-category in either reading or math. This is the second consecutive year that has occurred. MACCRAY's free & reduced percentage in 2008-09 was 36%. The state average was 33%.
- MACCRAY did make AYP in all other areas.

9/21/09

23


Transportation Savings

*8.84% savings

9/21/09

24


Electricity



*13.70% reduction

9/21/09 25

Water/Sewer



*Water main issues- water was running unnoticed. *8.82% reduction

9/21/09 26

Fuel Oil

*9.14% reduction

9/21/09 27

Estimated vs. Actual Savings

	@ 2007-08		Actual
	Estimated	Rates	
• Substitute Teacher Costs \$22,184**	\$9,023		\$22,184**
• Transportation Costs \$65,201	\$65,201		\$65,201
• Energy Savings \$93,775	\$16,374		\$28,493
• Maintenance Costs	\$3,611	*	*
• Faculty Mileage	\$994		*
Total	\$95,203	\$115,878	\$181,159

* Needs further analysis

** Not all savings can be attributed to four-day week

9/21/09

28

7-12 students report...

- having a better attitude toward school - "the weeks go so fast!"
- Monday is a day to "de-stress"
- more time for family activities.
- longer class periods allow for more work to be completed.
- improved attendance.

9/21/09

29

K-6 students report...

- "There's not enough recess time."
- "I am hungrier during the day."
- "I like having two snack times."
- "I like having less school."
- "The days go fast."



9/21/09

30

MACCRAY parents report...

- Nights are very short for elementary aged students
- "I've been surprised how easy the transition has been."
- "Homework needs to be completed before Monday since parents work on Monday"
- "I'm enjoying the extra day for appointments and family time."
- "The new schedule is a disadvantage for those that have to leave early for sports."

9/21/09

31

Teachers report...

K-6 staff

- The day goes just as fast as before.
- We're on track with language arts.
- I'm honestly surprised how well it is going.

7-12 staff

- I love the longer class periods for labs.
- I am a little ahead of where I was last year.

9/21/09

32

Adjustments Made for Students

- SMART program
- Later breakfast time
- Later lunch times
- Adjust schedules in fall and spring
- Snacks sold at 7-12 level

9/21/09

33

Thank you for
what you do
on behalf of
children!

9/21/09

34

QUESTIONS?



9/21/09

35

Contact Information

Gregory A. (Greg) Schmidt
Superintendent
MACCRAY Public Schools
711 Wolverine Drive
P.O. Box 690
Clara City, MN 56222
320-847-2154 (phone)
schmidtg@maccray.k12.mn.us
Website address: www.maccray.k12.mn.us



9/21/09

36
