

Port Angeles School District
Elementary Transition Team
Report 7
April 16, 2007

SUMMARY

The Elementary Transition Team met March 21, 2007 for the purpose of reviewing the physical education schedule for the elementary schools. In addition, the team discussed ways to adjust transportation routes with staggered school start times for the purpose of extending the instructional day at Roosevelt and Dry Creek Elementary Schools.

Physical Education Schedule

The team approved the continuation of the current physical education schedule. The elementary principals confirmed that the existing program is not possible without additional staff to serve the additional grade six students. The principals will continue to work with the staffing allocation to determine equitable distribution of physical education staff and meet the goals of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee.

Transportation

The Elementary Transition Team scheduled one additional meeting to focus on schedules and transportation with Jerry Eldred, Transportation Supervisor, on April 11, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to pursue the topic of equal instructional time for elementary students through transportation adjustments. Members were encouraged to send questions and possible solutions to Jerry Eldred, so that he could provide data and information for the team to examine and consider. Options included staggering the start time, staggering ending times, common dismissal times at other schools and state funding rules and procedures.

The special meeting on transportation was held April 11 with 7 members in attendance and Mary Hebert. Jerry Eldred provided the draft transportation schedule for 2007-08 transition year and information to address some of the transition team questions. The information provided showed that although variations in service could be provided to extend the time for the schools of concern, the solutions were not cost neutral and required additional funds to implement. It is recognized that Roosevelt Elementary School can capture additional instructional time by adjusting the scheduled start time to begin before 8:00 a.m. The buses arrive at approximately 7:30 a.m. with allowable time for students to participate in the breakfast program. This could extend the day by 10-15 minutes so that it more closely reflects the instructional time provided for elementary 4th, 5th and 6th grade students in other schools. It is recognized that this is not a possibility for Dry Creek Elementary School schedule.

The meeting concluded with the commitment that after the transition occurs and routes are established that respond to the many anticipated adjustments, Jerry Eldred will look for opportunities that might successfully accommodate the request to extend the Dry Creek intermediate students schedule. The Elementary Transition Team recognizes that students at Dry

Creek receive additional instructional time in their primary grades and this is beneficial to early intervention strategies. Although the intermediate students receive reduced instructional time as compared with other schools, the average instructional time meets state requirements. The team recognizes that it would be necessary to reduce other district programs to provide increased funding for transportation to equalize instructional time. The decision to provide additional fiscal resources to increase transportation costs would provide instructional time that exceeds the state minimum requirement for students attending Dry Creek, and would equalize instruction across the district. Since there is no solution that is cost neutral at this time, members support the transportation supervisor in pursuing possible adjustments the following 2008-09 school year, if an opportunity is discovered after the 2007-08 transition is implemented.