



## **Bruneau – Grand View Joint School District 4-day School Week Addendum**

**Please complete and return the survey in the other brochure.**

The following are questions asked and/or sent to the committee regarding the possible 4-day school week. Some questions are paraphrased or edited to make complete questions and to make sense in the context of this addendum. Many of the questions the committee received were similar, and were combined to a single question. Some of the questions received did not pertain to the 4-day school week, but instead to other budget concerns. This addendum only addresses the questions about the 4-day school week. Any budget questions can be addressed to the district office and school board. They will have a budget meeting in May. The school board should make a decision about the 4-day school week on May 6<sup>th</sup> at their scheduled meeting. If you have any question or concerns please contact any of the members of the 4-day school week committee listed on the brochure.

**Would Athletics adopt a four day practice schedule?**

Only for basketball and other winter events. The other sports either practice outside, and/or we would not have to heat or cool the building for their practices.

**How much did other comparable school districts save when they switched to the four day week?**

The average Idaho school district saved 2-3% of their budget regardless of size. For our district that is approximately \$100,000.

**Would Rimrock still have an A-B block schedule?**

No. Rimrock would most likely have a schedule where classes would meet every day.

**What is discretionary funds?**

Basically everything except salaries, benefits, and transportation.

**Would the students be more tired on a four day week?**

It adds 35 minutes to the school day which could make the students more tired. Most districts reported that the students were less tired thanks to the 3 days to rest.

**Why do you say that the students would have more family time if each day during the week the students go more hours?**

Students would only be going to school an extra 35 minutes. There is more time for families that have one parent home during the day off.

**Why do you say that students will spend the same amount of hours in school each week during the four day if you are only adding 35 minutes per day?**

The schedule also adds about two weeks of school to the schedule. Federal holidays and in-services would no longer be taken out of instructional time. Those combined with the 35 minutes per day adds up to more than the state required hours.

**Will this schedule allow enough time for IDLA students to complete their work?**

They will still have about the same amount of class time to complete their work each week, and have an additional day to do their work outside of class.

**What other schools in our league have 4-day school?**

There will be over 100 schools on the 4-day week by next year. Currently 18 districts are on the four day schedule. Council and Horseshoe Bend will be on the 4-day week next year. Garden Valley will most likely be. Other schools are exploring the possibility in the same way we are.

**Do we have to heat the building for football games?**

No, and we currently do not. When not in use the buildings are only heated to a temperature high enough to keep pipes from freezing.

**Will four-game nights be discontinued since students will miss more school?**

Home four-game nights can still be held without students missing school. The games would start at 3:45 instead of 3:30. Away four-game nights would most likely be on a day school is not in session.

**If Rimrock went to a 7 period day would graduation requirements, vocational programs, and class electives suffer?**

Students would have one less period, and would have to take one less elective class per semester. Graduation requirements would still meet or exceed state minimums.

**Can we heat only the gym for basketball games?**

Yes, we currently only heat the gym, locker rooms, hallway outside the gym, bathrooms, cafeteria, and kitchen (concessions) during basketball games. The gym and auditorium are the two most expensive parts of the school to bring up to temperature and continue to heat.

**Wouldn't the November holiday week be confusing where we have school on Monday?**

It would depend on which day the school took off. No matter which day is selected we would have to occasionally go to school on that day off and it could be confusing.

**Where did you get your data on dropout rates if this is a new event (only one or two years)?**

Four-day school week have been around for over 30 years. The first school switched in New Mexico in the 1970s. Some Idaho districts have been on the 4 day week for over 6 years.

**What is the breakdown for other states? Is this just an Idaho issue?**

Many states have schools on the 4 day week. Some of the most prominent states include: Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Oregon, Arizona, and Louisiana. This is mostly confined to rural districts, but some large cities like Chicago are currently considering the 4-day school week.

**If we took Friday as the no-school day could events that are normally held on Friday be held on Thursday?**

Yes

**Can high school students still miss the same number of days of school?**

No, they could only miss 9 days per semester instead of 10.

**Can there be an option for half or ¾ days kindergarten, and have parents pick their students up instead of use the busses.**

That would be up to the school board to decide. The district could not afford to run extra buses to send students home at noon. It is not currently being considered.

### **Can we look at other ‘cons’ from around the country before making decisions?**

The committee has looked at articles, research reports, academic papers, and had conversations with other school districts that switched. This information was available at the community presentations and is available at Rimrock for viewing. This information was presented to the board.

### **Who makes the decision to go to a 4-day week?**

The school board

### **Will the cooks and bus drivers be considered part-time and loose benefits?**

The cooks will not. Some of the bus drivers are already part-time. Only one bus driver would fall below the benefit line that is currently above. They would have the option to drive activity trips to stay above the line.

### **Would there be an adjustment to recess or the length of lunch and breaks?**

Yes

### **How are we going to better educate our kids on this 4-day plan over the 5-day plan? Is there a plan to make better use of the days, and account for loss of information over the longer break?**

The first change would be to have the classes meet every day. On the current A-B block schedule students already go three days over the weekend without seeing their teacher (i.e. Class meets Thursday for A day and then not again until Monday the next A day). Having the class meet every day for longer will mean more time per week with the instructor. The gap between when classes meet will be shorter during the week and the same over the weekend. Studies have shown the both primary and secondary students perform the same or better on academic tests on a 4-day schedule as they do on a five day schedule.

### **What is the reason other schools have taken Friday off?**

Not all schools have taken Friday off, but most have. The main reasons cited are either cultural and/or industrial. Most people when considering a 4-day week expect to take Friday off. For that reason many industries that switched to a 4-day week, to save money, took Fridays off. Most schools that switched to a 4-day school week did so either because it seemed natural and/or local industries already took that day off.

### **What about teen pregnancy rates?**

None of the schools we contacted reported an increase in the teen pregnancy rate. Most schools do not track that data.

### **Are they going to reduce sick days and personal days for the teachers?**

Sick and personal days could be adjusted as the board sees fit and state law requires.

### **Will little league and other groups still be able to use school facilities?**

Yes, but probably not on the day the school is shut down to save money.

### **Where can IDLA students get online if the schools are closed?**

If they do not have internet access at home they can use the public libraries. IDLA also has options to download homework to be completed offline.

**Will parent teacher conference be held the same way?**

That has not been decided. They could be or they could be held on the day off.

**How late and early will the school be open for evening practices and other events?**

Everything will be approximately 17.5 minutes earlier or later. Thirty-Five additional minutes each day would be split between the morning and evening.

**Will there be time for remedial help, and will there be an after school program?**

Yes, and yes. At the Grand View presentation it was said that there might not be an after school program, but there could be.

**Right now when we have a holiday on Monday we just take it off. Why can't we do that on a 4 day, Friday off week? How many days would that add to the school year?**

The district could. There would only be three days of school that week. It would add three days of school to the calendar.

**What are the psychological effects on student and teacher absences, stress on students and discipline if we take Monday off? "The beginning of the week instead of the end when teachers and kids are tired of looking at each other?"**

Some students and teachers may be more stressed taking the beginning of the week off instead of the end. Some may see Tuesday as the beginning of the week.

**Are all the teams playing away games on Monday just going to skip practice for the whole weekend and play cold, or are the coaches going to want the school open Monday for pre-game practice? Will students need to find their own rides to practice and games on the day off?**

The school would need to be completely shut down on the day that the school would take off. There could be no basketball practices or games on the day off whether it was Friday or Monday. If we took Mondays off and the team played Monday the students would not have had practice for two days (Saturday and Sunday). If we took Mondays off and the team played Tuesday the students would not have had practice for three days (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) If we took Friday and they played Monday they would have not had practice for three days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).

**Concerns:**

If we took Monday off, and the away games were Monday, the students would be getting home late the day before school and may start the week out tired.

Some students would get on the bus when it was dark, and get home when it was dark.

Some local people already have Friday off.

Monday night is family night for some families in the district.

Some games and other extra-curricular organizations have events on other days of the week and would still miss school. Some events are on Fridays and can't be rescheduled. Changing league scheduled sporting events requires the consent of both teams. Some of these games might not be changeable.

If we took Friday off we would not have any home games or other in door events on Fridays.

Parents who work five days a week would have less time with their children.

Students get up too earlier and get home too late.