

Community Time Planning Committee Meeting(s) Summary Nov 6 and Dec 11, 2019

Attendees: Rob Janke, Bill San Hamel, Joe Wagstaffe, Rob Janke, Bernadette Troyan, Louie Agelson, Sue Atkinson, Katy Murphy, Missy Scott-Florez, Carlos Jimenez, Brooke Slater, Bridgit McGarry, Tana Perotin, Justin Christensen, Judy Alessandri, Lisa Yi, Kristina Luscher, Diane Fellenz, Dave Barone

Meeting Summary

This summary applies to the committee discussion in our last two meetings (November 6 and December 11) and the work done in between.

Calendar Review Wrap-up

We finished our review of the 2020-2021 academic calendar in our November 6 meeting. After the 40 class meetings were accounted for, there was some discussion regarding how to use four additional days that were tentatively reserved for Justice Summit activities and teacher in-service. After considering several options, the committee decided to use two of the days as class days, to use one in March as an in-service day, and to use one in April as a faculty workday. The faculty workday could support AP practice test activity, faculty collaboration, or individual work such as grading or lesson planning. Adding the two additional class days means each class will meet 41 times in the second semester instead of 40.

A Note about the Justice Summit

In the original calendar, two days were reserved for Justice Summit programming. The two days were placeholders because the format of the Summit is expected to change. The programming in the future will be province-wide and it is not yet clear what form it will take.

Given the uncertainty of the format, it doesn't make sense to reserve arbitrarily two days which might not be used. So it was suggested that we suspend the Summit next year in order to focus on the schedule change and allow room for the Province-wide justice programming. The suggestion was that we would take a one year pause.

The committee thought the suggestion made sense and we chose to repurpose the two days for class meetings to help address teacher concern regarding pruning and prioritizing curriculum. We also noted that Community Time could be used periodically for justice-themed programming (e.g. a justice speaker series). We will modify the 2021-22 calendar to accommodate the province-wide planning as it takes shape.

Addressing the Conflict between Retreats and Academics

To minimize the competition for students' time between retreats and academics, Missy is looking into moving 2-3 Kairos retreats and SLOR's into the first week of January (a partial school week). Students and faculty on these retreats would miss at most, one school day (four class periods). Given the popularity of the August Kairos retreats among students and faculty, we expect a good deal of interest in January retreats as well. Missy is checking into availability of retreat centers.

Faculty/Staff Role During Community Time

We received several questions regarding expectations/priorities for faculty during Community Time. Here are some general guidelines:

Teachers are expected to be on campus and available to students during Community Time. Availability could take many forms, such as holding office hours, proctoring make-up exams, opening a classroom or studio for student work, moderating a club, attending a maker fair, watching a student deliver a farewell speech, etc. Availability for academic help is the highest priority but beyond that, teachers can choose how they want to be present for students. The guiding directive is that being present for students should be a teacher's top priority during Community Time—above, for example, a teacher-teacher meeting, or lesson prep. When Community Time is used for an all-school liturgy, assembly or rally, teachers are expected to attend.

The general spirit of Community Time is to build community with students; it provides an opportunity for us to support and walk alongside students.

Question Regarding Faculty Faith Groups During Community Time

The committee discussed the possible use of Community Time for adult faith group meetings. We noted that the priority for faculty and staff during community time is to be present for students, so initially at least, adult faith groups should meet outside of community time. However, the committee also noted the importance of adult faith groups and there was a strong desire to support them. We agreed to revisit this question after experiencing Community Time for a semester to see if it might be feasible to designate certain days as open for faith group meetings during Community Time.

Balancing the Management of Clubs During Community Time

Brooke is in the process of collecting and processing data regarding student and teacher participation in clubs. She and Bridgit are working on a proposal to consolidate clubs where there is extensive overlap, eliminate clubs where there is no participation, and coordinate the club meeting schedule to help balance Community Time Activity. A primary goal is to make sure club demands on moderators are reasonable so that faculty and staff can be available to participate in Community Time activities beyond clubs. An equally important goal is not to overregulate clubs during community time. So, we plan to implement moderate coordination to club schedules and to watch to see what issues arise. We'll adjust to address these issues as needed.

Varsity Programs and Co-Curriculars and Community Time

The question of implementing varsity programs and co-curriculars (e.g. speech & debate, robotics, yearbook) as courses was posed to the committee. The committee forwarded the question to Kristina, who in turn met separately with the various program directors and coaches. After talking through the logistical details, most groups found the benefits of the idea to be marginal, so they've opted to continue with the status quo, except for moving lunchtime activity into community time. The athletics department, however, is interested in exploring the idea with the Lacrosse and Water Polo programs. Mike, Louie, and Kristina are currently discussing the details.

Making the Calendar Available to Faculty & Staff

We are planning to share a draft of the 2020-21 Academic Calendar with faculty and staff by the end of January. Please note that although we've spent a good amount of time reviewing it, the calendar we share will still be a draft and there will likely be some revision before the final version is made available to students and parents later in the spring semester. We expect any revision to be minor. Once the calendar is released to faculty, we invite groups on campus to begin to plan activities and events for Community

Time next year. We are still working on a format for a Community Time Activities Calendar and we'll provide an update on this next quarter.

Future Community Time Committee Meetings

Currently there are no additional Community Time Committee meetings scheduled. However, we expect new questions and issues to arise, so the committee members have agreed to meet as needed next semester. As always, please feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Best Holiday Wishes,
Dave