

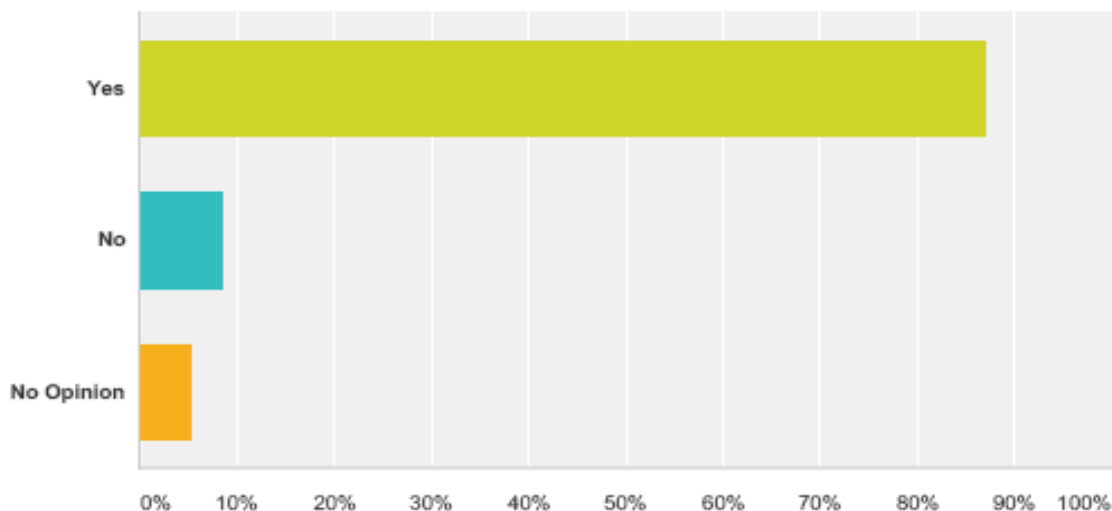
QUESTION #11 PARENT/COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The Selkirk School District Board of Directors held a public meeting on the topic of the four-day school week on the evening of February 22, 2017. The meeting was advertised through the local newspaper, via the district's daily bulletin, in K-5 classroom newsletters, on flyers in the community, and a letter was mailed to every student's household. Approximately 65 people attended, not counting school board and administration. Verbal statements at the meeting indicated overwhelming support to move to a four-day school week as a strategy to attract a quality work force. 100% of the parents, staff, or community members completing surveys the night of the meeting, selected that they supported a move to a four-day week. The survey was also available online and some participants at the meeting completed the survey later.

The survey link was also posted on the district's Facebook page and the district's website. As of February 28, 2017, the district has received 93 completed surveys with 87% of respondents supporting the move to a four-day school week. Only seven respondents opposed and of the those, four did not attend a meeting, speak to a school representative or want additional information, thus, making it difficult to ascertain the objections or concerns. Removing the five who indicated that they had no opinion and re-calculating percentages in terms of yes versus no, the approval rating for moving to a four-day school week climbs to 81 out 88 or 92%. The survey respondents were parents, community members, staff, and, at minimum, represent 99 students or 39% of our 255 total students enrolled. While parents indicated the individual grades their children were enrolled in from K-8, grades 9-12 were tracked as a single category. Therefore, of the 98 students, the 33 in grades 9-12 could represent multiple students. In addition, 27 respondents indicated that they had children ages birth to 5 years old, so a good preschool demographic response.

Q5 Do you support the school district moving to a 4-Day School Week for 2017-2018.

Answered: 93 Skipped: 26



At the meeting, the audience had questions regarding calendar, bussing, schedules, and athletics. District administration responded with sample calendars, proposed daily schedules, and recommended district procedures to address athletics and bus times. In addition, the topics of homework and innovative teaching strategies to insure student engagement in a longer day were also discussed. The district's teachers' union, Selkirk Education Association, (SEA) supports the four-day school week option and teachers feel that they can address the curriculum expectations and student needs in the modified calendar especially as there is little to no loss of instructional time in the 4-day week schedule.

Childcare was mentioned as a potential obstacle, but no parent attending the meeting indicated a need for his or her own family. However, if there are sufficient requests from K-5 parents, the district will implement a childcare program on Fridays for students in grades K-5. This is not anticipated, though, as two working parents on a 5-day per week schedule is not the norm in our community.

Other questions included classified employees work schedules and any potential time lost. The superintendent shared that classified staff will have opportunity for professional development time and new schedule options that would minimize any time lost. For example, with regard to bus drivers, the district will continue to run an activity bus for high school athletic practices on Fridays and likely at a second activity route after practice. In many categories, classified staff increased time because of the longer school day and additional professional development time. The district's classified union, represented by the Public Service Employees (PSE), supports the four-day school week option.

Finally, the district concluded the meeting by assuring parents that if the waiver were granted, there would be a review process next spring including an opportunity for community/parent input (and annually thereafter if the calendar were continued) to assess impacts on families and on student achievement.

There is no PTA-type organization at Selkirk, but parents generally feel comfortable approaching school staff and administration directly. There has been no major objection to the four-day week option and the majority of the comments received have been in support.

Comments of support taken directly from the surveys include (sic):

Yes, I believe our students and families will benefit from a four day work week. Our location is remote with families having to drive two hours one way for Doctor apps, to get our cars fixed ,to buy many of our supplies and many other needs that are not available in our small communities.

Improved student attendance. A day for grading and planning. Transportation cost decrease for my family.

I believe it will enhance our efforts to recruit new teachers. I believe it may be better for students and staff. I believe it is well worth a try.

In the current teacher shortage, the 4 day week is Selkirk's best chance to hire and retain quality teachers.

I am in favor of the 4 days school week as I think it will hold many benefits for our school community, such as less school time missed by students for appointments and sports, better retention of existing staff, and a recruiting factor for new staff.

It sounds like the option is the best one we have in front of us!

I am on board!

I think it is a great opportunity for staff and students.

Go for it! Excited for three day weekends to see family, travel, and quality time.

Good idea, quality faculty is a must. Do what needs to be done to attract them.

I believe that it is in the best interest of Selkirk School District to explore all options to attract new staff while still focusing on the high educational expectations that have become a standard here at Selkirk.

I believe it would be good for families to have more time together to do things. It would give teachers more time for planning.

Sounds like a good option to get teachers. And also less absences for both staff and students.

My kids miss a whole day of school just for appointments. And not just one of my kids but usually all of them miss a day of school because a trip to Spokane usually takes all day and I typically don't make it home by the time school is out. I think overall attendance would be better and family's would benefit from having a week day to schedule appointments.

I think kids would enjoy more time at home and be more engaged at school by getting more at home time.

Save school money (transportation) more time with family during the day and not just at night.

I support this 100%.

I think this gives our students a chance to catch up on work and sleep. I think we will see multiple benefits in our students engagement and attitudes.

For all the right reasons. WIN / WIN

I want to have the extra day with my children. I feel the extra day off will be beneficial for the learning environment. I feel the teachers will be happier with this. Happy teacher, happy students.

I support it but I still have concerns about how my children will handle the longer day. I know it is not adding too much time that I am not OK with it. I also love the idea of making appointments minimizing the time from school for these appointments. Unfortunately this will not effect most of our regular appointments as they are not offered on Fridays. Or the appointments are you take what you can get or you have to wait 3 months to get the day you want. Like the cardiologist, orthodontist and the psychiatrist just to name a few. But it will be helpful for the non regular ones. Another concern is the transitioning after having 3 sometimes 4 day weekends. I am hoping

the children will get used to it and it won't be a problem. But typically it is an adjustment. I really am supportive about this proposal but these are the real issues my children face. One idea an Oregon school district does is....when there is a Monday off for holiday they attend that Friday making it still a four day school week and ending the school year when it typically ends instead of going the extra week. (Just a suggestion). Thank you!

I believe the 4-day week will help us attract high quality staff and that there will not be a negative impact on the students. In fact, I expect a positive impact.

I believe it is in the best interest of the students and the district.

I am very excited to try the 4 day week. I work with many special Ed students. They are very exhausted and overloaded by Friday. I feel it will be good for staff and students . I'm excited for the chance to be able to meet with the teachers of the students I work with. I feel I'll be able to stay more motivated and have total quality time with a 4 day week and 3 days off. I'm hoping our students and staff will feel more energy ! I truly believe this will entice new teachers to our district. I've talked with a lot kids who are very excited about the idea!

I think it will help in attracting and retaining staff.

I have a few concerns, but I think it is worth trying.

I believe, for me it would help not having to pull my child out for dr appointments. I have worked a 4 day work schedule for 17 years and I love it. It would also be nice to have my child around on Fridays to help me with things.

I think it will work with bus pick-up times not moving earlier, more hands-on teaching, and reduction of homework.

From what I hear, it will be good for both students and staff. So let's try it.