DPHS Student Board Report Narrative Template

Dos Pueblos High School
January 29, 2019 6:30 pm

Background:
Dos Pueblos High School students were asked to be a part of the Student Voice Committee where they participated in group discussions about what was working at our school, and what could be improved upon. A team of eight students were invited to the district to meet with members of the School Board and District Management Team to brainstorm and come up with ideas of how we could improve Dos Pueblos High School.

At the meeting many ideas were introduced but the main topic we focused on was that students at DPHS have a hard time fitting classes into their schedule without having to go to summer school, zero period, and City College while in high school. This is especially challenging for students that are English Learners, have IEPs, take math support courses, or are in specialized programs. We feel like the stress of school bleeds into times when we need to relax and enjoy other things in life. So we chose as our topic of identified need to be, to have a schedule that allows students to take more electives and courses of choice throughout the year.

Some of the main reasons we stuck with this topic is because when the group was talking we realized that we are missing many opportunities to learn new things and to even try electives and others courses of choice while in high school. We feel like high school is a time to build passion and interests, but the number of required courses for graduation and college make it hard for us to take electives during the year. Every one of us shared an example of why we had to take classes at SBCC, online, zero period or summer school. Most of us were electing to take required courses like history, foreign language, or biology during alternate times so we could take theater, music, art, CTE pathways, or sports at school. This was adding to our stress instead of helping it. Another reason we wanted more options to take classes was to be better prepared for college. We feel like if we had more opportunities to take more classes we would be more competitive on college applications and feel more prepared transitioning from high school to college.

One of the main problems we found with our schedule was that some of us that are in special programs like AVID, the DPEA, Special Education, and are English Learners have limited opportunities to take electives without taking classes outside the regular schedule. These programs lock in our schedules with classes we have to take on top of the graduation and college required courses. It virtually makes it impossible to fit into our schedules a time to take classes other than required courses.

The main reason we focused on this improvement idea was because of what we thought we would gain by changing our schedule to one that offers more opportunity for students. We feel like by having time to take fun classes like sports medicine, culinary arts, theater, arts, construction technology, DP Media, etc. would lower our stress levels, would teach us lifelong skills and develop possible future careers.

As a committee, we realized that we are a small voice for our student body so we decided to ask our fellow students what they thought about our idea. We had students from EL, AVID, and DPEA take a poll and give us feedback on what they thought about our schedule and the

possibility of more opportunity as well. It was clear from the data that this is something students would be interested in.

Our topic led us to researching schedules at other schools in the area. We looked at Lompoc, Santa Ynez, and San Marcos as models of schedules that offer students 7-8 classes per year. We found that each have their pros and cons. We know that this would take more research to figure out if it would be possible to change a school schedule.

San Marcos High School Bell Schedule

San Marcos High School 2018 – 2019 Bell Schedule

ROYAL TIME (Regular) BELL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE	HOURS	TOTAL TIME
Period 1	8:00 – 9:26	(86 minutes)
Nutrition Break	9:26 – 9:31	(5 minutes)
Passing	9:31 – 9:36	(5 minutes)
Period 2	9:36 – 11:02	(86 minutes)
Passing	11:02 – 11:07	(5 minutes)
Royal Time ("Period 9")	*11:07 – 11:32*	*(25 minutes)*
Lunch Break	11:32 – 12:02	(30 minutes)
Passing	12:20 – 12:07	(5 minutes)
Period 3	12:07 – 1:33	(86 minutes)
Passing	1:33 – 1:38	(5 minutes)
Period 4	1:38 – 3:04	(86 minutes)

Pros:

- Students have less homework
- More time for labs in sciences
- Royal Time is basically free time
- More time to connect with peers and teachers
- More time for sports
- More time for taking tests

Cons:

- Students get bored in some classes that meet for 86 minutes each day
- Students can't remember things for AP tests after having class in the Fall and having to take AP exams in Spring

- Missing class is worse for students because they miss more class time

Santa Ynez High School Bell Schedule

Period 1/2	8:00 AM	9:40 AM	100 min
Nutrition	9:40 AM	9:53 AM	13 min
Period 3/4	10:00 AM	11:40 AM	100 min
Lunch	11:30 AM	12:13 PM	43 min
Period 5/6	12:20 PM	2:00 PM	100 min
Period 7	2:07 PM	3:07 PM	60 min (only for freshmen)

Pros:

- More opportunity for electives
- 7th period option within 7 hour day
- Longer Lunch Period
- 7 minute Passing Period

Cons:

- Hard to follow with classes flipping
- No Late Start
- No embedded Seminar

Lompoc High School Bell Schedule

1st	8:00	8:48
2nd	8:53	9:46
3rd	9:51	10:39
4th	10:44	11:32
Lunch	11:32	12:16
5th	12:26	1:14
6th	1:19	2:07
7th	2:12	3:00

Late Start Schedule

Period	Begins	Ends
1st	9:00	9:39
2nd	9:44	10:27
3rd	10:32	11:11
4th	11:16	11:55
Lunch	11:55	12:53
5th	12:53	1:32

6th 1:37 2:16
7th 2:21 3:00

Pros:

- More opportunity for electives
- More classes (7 periods)
- Longer lunch
- Late start

Cons

- Shorter classes (48 minutes)
- 5 minute passing period
- No seminar

Statement of Identified Need:
Our identified need is to have more opportunities to take electives, CTE pathways and classes of choice throughout the school year. We would like there to be more periods in the day, and/or more opportunities for electives that offer dual enrollment credit, honors, or AP credit. This would help students become more well-rounded and learn new skills. By increasing these opportunities, more students at DPHS would be able to complete the state college and career readiness indicators as seen here.

Statement of Desired Outcome:
We would like to be able to have the option for higher-level/dual enrollment elective classes, such as art, theater, culinary, etc. It would provide more incentive for hard-working students to take these classes and will help boost their GPA. We would like students in specialized learning programs like AVID, DPEA, Special Education, or English Learners who don't get an elective, because they are taking extra math or AVID classes, to be able to take an elective class.
We would also like to have 7 periods or more in the semester in order to be able to take more of the elective classes we want without having to worry about our a-g requirements. In order to do that, we would need to add extra periods in the semester.

Actions Taken:
It was in October of this school year that we began our research on bell schedules that offer more than 6 periods per semester. This was the topic that our Student Voice Committee felt would greatly benefit our student body. Just recently we were informed that the School District has also been considering this option for Dos Pueblos High School. As part of our research we looked at Lompoc, Santa Ynez and San Marcos as models of schools that allow students more opportunity to take electives and other courses that students choose. We looked at our own schedule and compared it to the requirements we have to take to graduate or to be UC and state college ready. We feel it is hard to fit these requirements into a 6 period per semester schedule and still be able to take courses of choice.

We polled over 590 students in the AVID, EL, and the DPEA to see what their impressions were of a schedule offering more periods per semester. The reason we polled these students was because they are most affected by the choices of classes they can take due to the added program requirements they must complete in order to graduate and finish the program. We also wanted to know if they had to enroll in classes outside the regular school schedule during summer, zero period, or afterschool, to complete any of their requirements as a result of being in a special program. The data we received from the poll helped us to understand the need for and student desire to have a schedule that offers more classes per semester.

Reflection/Evaluation:
From the data we collected and the discussions our committee had, we feel that students at DPHS would benefit from finding a schedule that would offer more opportunities to take classes at school during the regular school hours. We feel that students would enjoy taking more electives, CTE pathways, and courses of choice while in high school. We feel that students would have less stress if they could fit into their schedules some fun classes to balance out the academics that are required.

Next Steps:
The next steps would be to educate the DPHS staff, students, and parents about our desire to have a different bell schedule that allows for more classes each semester. This would increase our educational opportunities and help more students reach the state expected college and career readiness indicators. We are hoping that the Santa Barbara Unified School District will research some possibilities for adding a 7 or 8 period schedule to DPHS. After researching ideas, the plan would need to be introduced to all stakeholders so everyone would have a chance to give input. The final step would be to commit to a new bell schedule that supports students in their desire to have a schedule with more classes per semester.