

Raymore-Peculiar School Board Update
Work Session
Oct. 13, 2016

During its Oct. 13 work session, the Raymore-Peculiar School Board discussed early childhood programming, school names, a proposed change to the high school schedule, and a boundary committee update.

Early Childhood Programming

Board members learned more about plans to expand the District's Early Childhood program. In September, Board members emphasized their desire to increase instructional time and the number of students served. On Oct. 13, the Board reviewed a plan that includes these components:

- Early Childhood Special Education – ages 3-5, four classrooms, four half-days per week
- Pre-K – ages 4-5, three classrooms, five half-days per week (one additional classroom and an increase in classroom time from the current two half-days per week)
- High School Child Development Class – ages 3-5, one classroom, four half-days per week
- Panther Pride Wrap Around Child Care – five half-days per week

The Board reviewed proposed plans for staffing and tuition, which includes a sliding scale for families who meet income requirements. In addition, Dr. Michelle Hofmann, Director of Elementary Education, provided information about research studies showing benefits of investment in early childhood education.

Read the Early Childhood presentation here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/11700>

Changes to the Early Childhood program are part of the District's Long Range Facility Plan. The plan identified the need to find a more permanent home for the Early Childhood program, while also allowing the program to grow. As part of the plan, Shull Elementary School will be repurposed as the primary Early Childhood education site for the 2017-2018 school year.

School Names

With changes in grade configurations for 2017-2018, four schools will be used in a different way. Superintendent Dr. Kari Monsees reviewed options with the Board.

As Shull Elementary becomes the site for early childhood programs, staff discussed changing the name of the school to Shull Early Childhood Center or Shull Early Learning Center. Staff members favor Shull Early Learning Center. There was overwhelming support for retaining Shull as the building's name to continue to honor retired former superintendent Don Shull.

The Board favors retaining the names of Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen, while changing "Intermediate" to "Elementary" in the names of those schools.

There was more discussion about the naming of the current North High School, which will become a middle school in fall 2017. Board members discussed the pros and cons of naming the school Raymore-Peculiar Middle School or adding a direction to the name. Ultimately, the Board favored using the name Raymore-Peculiar South Middle School, and allowing students to be involved in selection of a mascot.

Currently, the District has one middle school, Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School. Students, staff, and patrons were involved in a process to select the Husky mascot and school colors of black and Carolina blue.

High School schedule

The Board heard a proposal for a revised bell schedule at Ray-Pec High School beginning in 2017-2018. The High School is considering a “blended block” schedule with a late start each Thursday. The class schedule would include three days of 50-minute classes (7-period day) and two days of block classes (93 minutes each).

Three days each week would include a 25-minute intervention period called Panther Hour. The time could be used for tutoring, study groups, making up exams, or other activities. One day each week would include a 25-minute Advisory period.

On Thursdays, classes would begin at 9:33 a.m., instead of the usual 7:25 a.m. This would provide time for staff to discuss curriculum, data, and intervention. Currently, Ray-Pec High School has a weekly late start of 7:47 a.m. on Tuesday. Administrators say that more time is needed for effective collaboration. In addition, departmental meetings are inconsistent because some staff members must supervise students who begin arriving at school by bus at the usual time. The two-hour late start proposed for 2017 also proposes a change to bus transportation on Thursdays, so that students arrive later at school.

Most of the time needed to add Panther Hour and an extended late start to the week will be made up through shortened passing times. Currently, there is a 10-minute passing period to allow students to travel between buildings. In 2017, all high school students will attend classes in the south high school building. See the proposal here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/11703>

Boundary Committee

Dr. Monsees provided an update on the work of the Boundary Committee. You can see the latest information here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/1072/Attendance-Boundary-Committee>