

Chadron Public Schools

March 12, 2008

District Patrons:

Chadron Public School administrators, the board of education and a parent-staff advisory committee have been discussing options for implementing early dismissal for grades K-8. The advisory committee supports the idea of implementing early release time in order for teachers to spend time on important educational planning activities, which are intended to better serve the needs of our children. Release time has become necessary for teachers to engage in the following types of activities:

- staff meetings
- curriculum mapping
- NCA school improvement activities
- collaborative curriculum review
- evaluation of assessments results
- improvement of instructional content
- improvement of student learning
- other in-service activities

In an effort to consider the opinions of parents, who may be affected by the implementation of release time, the board, administration, and advisory committee have prepared a parent survey, which they encourage parents to complete. The purpose of the survey is to get feedback about parental preferences with regard to support for an early release proposal - how often it might occur, the best time of the day for dismissal, the preferred day of the week, or other suggested options.

The survey will be sent home to parents of students in grades K-4, will be mailed to parents of students in grades 5-8, and will be available on the school's website at www.chadronschools.org for manual print out. A paper version of the survey is available at each school office if you did not receive a copy. All responses are anonymous.

Parents are encouraged to complete the survey and return it to the school by March 25, so that the results may be considered in making a final decision for the upcoming 2008-09 school term. If some type of early release schedule is implemented for 2008-09, it will be considered to be a pilot approach for a year and then be re-evaluated during the next school year to see if it will be continued, discontinued, or if some other option will be piloted for the next year.

The high school has followed a 1:30 p.m. dismissal on each Friday of the school year, for the past two years and has found it to be advantageous for meeting the needs of staff for completing required student data reviews and other related instructional in-service activities. Even though the high school has early dismissal each Friday, there is no hard fast rule that K-8 staff need to follow the same schedule as the high school.

Thank you for your time in completing this survey. Your input on this matter is important to us.

Chadron Public Schools

K-8 Early Release Time – Parent Survey

REGARDING PROPOSED RELEASE TIME FOR STAFF IN-SERVICE

The Chadron Board of Education and Administration have been discussing the possibility of implementing early release time on a regular basis similar to, or on the same basis as, the high school's schedule of early release, which is every Friday at 1:30 p.m. A committee of parents, staff, and administrators has been discussing the pros and cons of this proposal since December 2007. At this point the board, administration, and committee would like to survey parents for their input regarding the potential implementation of some early release time for grades K-8 for the 2008-09 school term on a trial basis.

In order for parental input to be considered, please take a few minutes to respond to the following statements and/or questions to the best of your knowledge or as you perceive the issue. Note – even if your answer to question #2 is no, we would like your opinion on the rest of the survey in case a decision is made to implement some form of early dismissal for grades K-8. Please complete the survey in paper form or by going to www.chadronschools.org for a downloadable version by March 25, 2008. Thank you for your time.

1. My child(ren) attends school at the following building(s):
 - Rural School
 - KW Elementary School
 - EW Elementary School
 - Middle School
 - High School

2. In general, do you support the idea of having early dismissal for the 2008-09 school year for staff in-service activities, teacher meetings, curriculum development, school improvement activities, etc., many of which are mandated by state and federal regulations?
 - Yes
 - No

3. If an early release were implemented for grades K-8, do you feel it is important that the early release time be consistent for K-12 on the same day and same time throughout the district?
 - Yes
 - No

4. If release time is implemented for grades K-8, how often seems reasonable to you?
 - Full Day, Once per Month;
 - Full Day, Twice per Month;
 - Half Day, Once per Month;
 - Half Day, Twice per Month;
 - Half Day, Once per Week;

5. If release time were scheduled for Friday afternoon, which dismissal time do you prefer?

- 12:00 p.m. dismissal;
- 12:30 p.m. dismissal;
- 1:00 p.m. dismissal;
- 1:30 p.m. dismissal;

6. If release time were scheduled on a weekly basis, the school day would need to be extended by 10 to 20 minutes per day Monday through Thursday, depending on how often early dismissal occurs. The additional time may be at either end of the day and/or during the school day. Do you support this adjustment to the school day in order to protect minimal instructional time with students?

- Yes
- No

7. Comments, options, or alternatives for the board, administration and committee to consider: