Wilton School District #1 11/5/2026 at 11:45AM Negotiations Committee Meeting.

In attendance: Board Members Jessica Oswald and Kerri Benning, Superintendent Andrew Jordan and Business Manager Jenna Kirchmeier.

Superintendent Jordan shared that over the past two years, the Employee Growth and Retention Committee has been exploring ways to support staff recruitment and retention. Efforts have included staff surveys, block scheduling, shortened school weeks, and other ways to recognize and support employees.

Several area schools are currently operating or considering a four-day school week, including Turtle Lake-Mercer, Wing, Center, Max, Underwood, and Flasher. Superintendent Jordan noted that neighboring Turtle Lake has experienced positive results with its shortened week, particularly in employee recruitment and retention. Center currently operates on a hybrid schedule, with approximately 50% of its weeks following a five-day schedule and the remaining weeks following a four-day schedule.

The Negotiations Committee discussed what direction Wilton Public School would be comfortable exploring moving forward. During the 2025-2026 school year, the district implemented early dismissals on two Fridays per month. Discussion centered on whether the district should consider additional Fridays off, a hybrid schedule, or eventually transitioning to a four-day school week.

The Employee Growth and Retention Committee has surveyed staff and would like to move forward with a parent survey. Board members Oswald and Benning emphasized that any changes must prioritize what is best for students. They acknowledged, however, that improved staff recruitment and retention also positively impacts students and the overall educational experience.

Discussion included the possibility of moving to the next step of a hybrid schedule to evaluate how it works before considering a full four-day week. Committee members also discussed ways to continue providing academic support for students on Fridays. Other schools have implemented different approaches, including:

- Offering quarterly enrichment opportunities for students.
- Rotating teachers to provide academic assistance on designated Fridays.
- Requiring students with a D or F grade to attend for additional support.
- Providing targeted assistance for students who are struggling academically.

It was also noted that the state is monitoring student achievement data, and schools that are not meeting required standards may be required to return to a five-day school week. The committee discussed that moving beyond two early-out Fridays per month could also make implementing a block schedule more challenging.

Next Steps: The topic will be brought back to the November board meeting. Superintendent Jordan will prepare a preliminary parent survey and gather research regarding student performance in schools operating on a four-day school week. Before the survey is distributed, the Board will need to discuss and determine which questions and topics they are comfortable presenting to parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09PM.

Board President

Business Manager

(11-05-26)