Acadia adopts 4-day school week plan for Fifth Ward

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CROWLEY — The more than 900 students in the Fifth Ward will be on a four-day school week in August, after the Acadia Parish School Board endorsed the concept Tuesday.

The board voted 4-1, with one abstention and three members absent, to allow schools in Midland, Morin, Mermenentau and Setherwood to participate in the four-day school week.

Board member Lyle Johnson voted against and Kitty Valdetero abstained. She said, "There are two major reasons I am so in favor of this," said Midland High Principal Clyde Britton. "That is for motivation and to help kids that need help with the fundamentals and basics."

Britton was able to sway the board during the special meeting. "We are going to make it work," he said. "Getting the students to achieve is the hardest thing we have to do." The four-day week will motivate students to do well and allow students with academic problems to improve, he said.

"I don't want people to get the idea that we are taking time off," said Board member Lynn Shamsie, who represents the Fifth Ward. "There are a lot of questions. Some people are scared of what the outcome will be. I think it will be a good thing." The superintendent said the schools would be evaluated based on the school performance standards that are part of the state accountability plan.

Questions about bus riders, loss of lunch funds and bus drivers will be addressed in the plan that will be presented to the board in June.

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