School Start Time Committee **Council Chambers** April 3, 2017 10:00 a.m.

Present:

J. Erardi J.Davila D. Cruson R. Dufour J. Fonovic K. Gombos T. Harrison

M. Ku M. Memoli D. Roach L. Rodrigue J. Vouros J. Vouros 1 Public

A. Colangelo (10:43 a.m.)

Dr. Erardi spoke about the community forum last week. Mrs. Davila mentioned the following comments from the public:

- everyone wanted what was best for students
- a pediatrician spoke about sleep deprivation and that it sometimes mimics ADHA and • can also cause obesity
- majority of elementary parents wanted them to start earlier but not swap times with the high school
- concern there is no play time after school and bus stops in the dark •
- a parent shared pictures of the darkness at bus stops
- parents would work out child care if needed
- high school parents talked about nutrition being off balance with some students drinking Red Bull to stav awake
- concerns about the ECA arts program
- suggested research on daycare issues, sports issues, need a span of people for input • and draw the community in

Dr. Gombos said the majority agreed that the elementary time should be later but in each group there was someone happy with the way they were. Everyone wants what is best for children.

Mr. Dufour recapped last Thursday's meeting. He tried to get two tiers down to a zero cost but was unable to do so.

Dr. Ku said a big concern was safety at bus stops in the darkness.

Mr. Dufour said with Option 3 the high school student drop offs after dismissal would be between 4:45 and 5:00 p.m. Some students will come home in darkness.

Mr. Roach said starting the high school at 9:25 a.m. on tier three would not allow them to have practices until 4:30 p.m. which in the fall is close to sunset.

Mr. Memoli said that was not feasible. We would lose gymnastics programs and shared sports. Dr. Erardi said we own our start times for competitions. A negative with this is coaches may bring students in early to practice so it defeats the purpose. He is interested to hear the student voice.

Dr. Rodrigue agreed that the high school can't end past 2:30 or 2:40 p.m.

Dr. Erardi referred to Option 3 with a suggestion to start the elementary schools at 7:30 and end at 2:02, move the high school to tier 2 with a start time of 8:15 to 3:09 and the Reed and middle schools to start at 9:05 to 3:47 p.m.

Mr. Einhorn said regarding afternoon athletics, the middle school starts earlier than most middle schools but we would make that work. Most middle school students are not employed but many take care of siblings after school.

Dr. Erardi said there would be no additional cost with the high school at a 7:20 a.m. start time. Mr. Harrison said that from October 10 to November 5 mornings will be dark at the bus stops. Dr. Erardi would research that.

Mrs. Davila asked if this would eliminate middle school students waiting in the cafeteria. Mr. Dufour said there would be a 20-minute window before starting school.

Mr. Cruson asked if Dr. Erardi's suggestion would cause concern from the elementary parents to meet the 7:30 a.m. mark. He asked about putting the high school in tier 1 at 7:50 a.m.

Dr. Erardi said there needs to be research on appropriate start times.

Mrs. Davila feels that teacher professional development should be looked at also. Teachers in K-5 and 6-12 are hindered with this option.

Dr. Erardi referred to Mr. Cruson's option with the high school on tier 1 moving them back 30 minutes. The question is do we want to bring back at least a 30 minutes to make a significant change. Anything less than 30 minutes should not be considered. Everyone agreed to at least a 30-minute change for the high school.

Dr. Rodrigue didn't want to put a time frame on that increase if we find 20 minutes will be proposed.

Dr. Erardi said we have to be concerned around the elementary children coming home first and have to be unified going forward on how we feel about that.

Mr. Einhorn said the first middle school bus arrives at 6:45 a.m. and the students don't go to homeroom until 7:10 a.m. It would be good to eliminate that wait time. Mr. Dufour said the first middle school pickup is 6:10 a.m.

Mrs. Fonovic said Reed students will wait 20 minutes also. Mrs. Davila noted that wake up time is a parent issue.

Dr. Erardi spoke about the four subgroups: Research

After School Impact Tier Options, and Contractual Implications

The Research group should include Mrs. Davila, Mrs. Ku and Mr. Vouros. The After School Impact group should include student voices in intermediate and high school. The Tier Option group should include Mr. Dufour and Dr. Erardi would take care of the contractual implications. There should be a sub chair for each group Subcommittees should meet by April 17 with an update at the April 24 meeting.

May will be dedicated to research and options for the school board including the cost and tiers.

For the April 24 meeting Dr. Erardi will bring in private school representatives regarding impact on those schools.

Mrs. Ku asked how this will affect Abbott Tech and Nonnewaug High School.

Mr. Dufour would take care of that.

Dr. Erardi said at this time each member should look at the options and think about what they feel is best.

Mr. Vouros felt it important to crosscheck finances.

The meeting ended at 10:58 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June