

School Start Time Committee
Council Chambers
May 8, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Present:	J. Erardi	K. Joyce
	E. Aho	M. Ku
	A. Colangelo (absent)	M. Memoli
	D. Cruson	D. Roach
	J. Davila	L. Rodrigue
	R. Dufour	J. Vouros
	T. Einhorn	H. Werner
	J. Fonovic	6 Public
	T. Harrison	1 Press

PTA Presidents Debbie Deblasi, Lynn Edwards, Karen Smiley, Melissa Beylouni, and Kat Young attended the meeting.

Mr. Einhorn spoke about the results of surveying the eighth grade students. Most of the answers were the same as seventh graders but with a higher level of involvement in sports. Mr. Roach said in summary most students want a little more sleep, value their sports and afterschool activities and preferred the 8 AM to 2:30 PM school day.

Mr. Vouros asked the educational affect by decreasing 10 to 12 minutes.
Dr. Rodrigue said that amounts to a minute per class each day. We have a 10 minute advisory each morning and can look at making a change in that schedule.
Mr. Einhorn said the middle school would have to reduce each class by 1 to 1.5 minutes per class per day.

Mr. Harrison inquired about the pickup and drop off times for the high school.
Mr. Dufour said the majority of pickups would be closer to 7:00. There is no time change for the elementary schools but they will have a longer ride in morning. The elementary and Reed students will be on the same bus with Reed students being dropped off first and then traveling to the elementary schools.

Mr. Vouros asked what could be done about the \$62,000 cost for this change and what could be done to decrease that amount.

Mr. Dufour said the \$62,000 is subject to negotiation but we have to buy five more buses. It's possible that we might have a shorter travel time.

Dr. Erardi stated that we need to decide whether this change would be for next year or the following year.

Mr. Dufour said that options 4 or 5 would be doable for next year.

Mrs. Ku asked if we had to add buses how it would work logistically.

Mr. Dufour said we would have a 5-1/2 hour day instead of a 6-1/2 hour day.

Mrs. Ku also asked if it would be difficult to find drivers.

Mr. Dufour said it could but they would be able to get drivers.

Melissa Beylouni said a lot more elementary parents will drive because of the increase in the ride time so that could be a problem at drop off in the mornings.

Mrs. Davila asked if other districts used shuttles.

Mr. Dufour said New Milford picks up elementary and intermediate schools and transfer student mid-run.

Mrs. Davila spoke about the survey for the community which they hope to send to parents on May 22. Along with the survey will be an introduction with the charge, the research groups that provided information, the link to view the forum with Dr. Kanaan before answering questions and the public health concerns.

Mrs. Ku said the survey will help support decision input and identify possible problems.

Lynn Edwards said it would be useful to gather parent data before making a decision.

Dr. Erardi stated that we want parents to weigh in on this.

Dr. Erardi said he will suggest that the Board take time to digest the information and make a decision at the July meeting. He asked the committee if the change would be made in August 2017 or 2018.

Mr. Cruson thought that August 2017 would only give staff and parents a month's notification and might be difficult to implement.

Dr. Rodrigue stated that Mr. Dufour felt that some options can be made for next year.

Mr. Harrison said we will have to get community members to change afterschool activity times and also determine delay times for weather.

Mrs. Edwards said that parents need enough time to work on child care needs.

Mrs. Ku said that many options keep the elementary schools at the same time. We had changed the start time for Hawley at one point so it can be done.

Mr. Cruson stated that we also have staff in district that need to worry about child care.

Mrs. Aho felt we would need more than a couple of months to implement the change.

Dr. Erardi asked for the committee opinion on whether the start time for the high school would be 8:00 or 8:30. All agreed to an 8:00 high school start time.

Mr. Einhorn felt that the high school and middle school should start at the same time. He would also like to get the 10 minutes back for instructional time.

Mr. Harrison was concerned about the 20 minutes for students to wait at the middle and high schools before classes begin.

Mrs. Ku asked if we could stagger the middle and high schools and have a shuttle.

Dr. Rodrigue felt that could be looked at.

Mr. Einhorn said the morning is more difficult than the afternoon. Afternoons we have all buses lined up for first wave. There is no place to accommodate buses for both schools. The horseshoe is just for morning drop-off.

Dr. Erardi said that in a two tier system very few students will be in the dark before or after school. He questioned telling the Board to just consider a two tier system and asked if anyone felt strongly about a particular option.

He asked if everyone was open to shortening the school day for an 8:00 start time.

Mr. Cruson said we may have to compromise losing 10 minutes.

Mr. Einhorn thought Mr. Dufour could work on capturing some of the 20 minutes in the morning when students are waiting to go to class by having a later drop-off time.

Dr. Erardi asked the transportation subcommittee to request that Mr. Dufour look at adjusting some of the times to help with the 50 minutes.

Dr. Erardi asked if there were any recommendations on options 1 to 7. (attached)

Dr. Rodrigue said that from the research and student surveys option 5 was the best. It keeps the high school not going past the 2:30 threshold and doesn't change the elementary schools. There is not much of a daycare issue and it also captures students not being in the dark.

Additional comments on option 5:

Mr. Cruson supported Dr. Rodrigue's comments. He asked if the 20 minute down time was because of two drop-offs.

Mr. Einhorn said that was correct.

Mrs. Davila was looking at professional development and the 20 minute wait in the morning and what we can offer these students during that time.

Mrs. Fonovic, Mrs. Aho, Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Ku supported option 5.

Mr. Vouros also felt that we needed to work on the 20 minutes of down time for the middle and high school students.

Mr. Einhorn liked options 4 and 5 with splitting the time difference.

Dr. Rodrigue thought we could tighten the times up as many students are dropped off before 7:00 a.m.

The elementary principals, Mrs. Uberti and the private school administrators will be invited to Monday's meeting.

Dr. Erardi asked Dr. Rodrigue and Mr. Einhorn if we need a student voice. The PTA Presidents were also invited to attend. We would be looking at option 5 and deciding which school year.

Laura Brennan mentioned the possibility of using elementary parking lots to have the middle school and high school shuttle to eliminate the 20 minutes of down time.

Mrs. Joyce said that sometimes students are sitting on buses 10 minutes before they can enter their school.

Mr. Vouros asked if that had anything to do with no one in the building to receive them.

Mrs. Joyce said if that was the case then they should be getting on the bus later.

Mrs. Young felt the options should include the element of implementation and there should be an open-ended question in the survey. Since faculty and staff could be impacted they could also have a survey.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June

Current Configuration

3 Tier – 42.50 units

Tier 1

School	Start/End	# of Units	NHS/NMS Average Max Ride Time of 31 minutes & Majority of Ride times under 40 minutes **There are 2 routes with 50-55 minute Ride Time
NHS/NMS	7:20 – 2:02	42.50 units – 54/bus	

Tier 2

School	Start/End	# of Units	Reed Intermediate Average Max Ride Time of 34 minutes & Max Route Time of 45 minutes
RIS	8:05 – 2:49	30 units – 20/bus	
St Rose	8:00 – 2:50	5 units – 15/bus	

Tier 3

School	Start/End	# of Units	Elementary Schools Average Max Ride Time of 31 minutes & Max Route Time of 40 minutes
HAW	9:05 – 3:37	9 units	
HOM	9:05 – 3:37	9 units	
MGS	9:05 – 3:37	10 units	
SHS	9:05 – 3:37	10 units	
MAG	8:35 – 3:35	1 unit	
FWS/HVS	8:15 – 3:00	2 units	

Option 1A

Option 1A- Conversion to a 2 Tier system. Listed below are suggested start and end times.

		<u>Tier 1</u>	
School	Start/End	# of Units	
NHS	8:00 – 2:42	25 Units	
MS & RIS	8:00 – 2:42	<u>25 Units</u>	
		50 Units	
		<u>Tier 2</u>	
HAW	9:05 – 3:37	9 units	
HOM	9:05 – 3:37	9 units	
MGS	9:05 – 3:37	10 units	
SHS	9:05 – 3:37	10 units	
MAG	8:35 – 3:35	1 unit	
FWS/HVS	8:15 – 3:00	2 units	
St Rose	8:30 – 3:20	<u>8-9 dedicated units</u>	
		50 units	

Pros – Moves HS/MS start 50 minutes later. No disruption to Elementary school times. Possible for 1 hour late openings on bad weather days.

Cons – Requires an additional 8-10 units costing a minimum of \$233k more. Will need to rework Henry Abbott Tech transportation in the A.M. Will need to rework Nonnewaug Vo-Tech transportation in the P.M. Time change required for St Rose School. Not sure how it effects Special Ed trans without more information. Not doable until 2018-2019 School year at the earliest.

Option 1B

Option 1B- Same as 1A except with 10-minute shorter day For NHS, NMS & RIS which allows earlier dismissal for Elementary Schools.

		<u>Tier 1</u>	
School	Start/End	# of Units	
NHS	8:00 – 2:32	25 Units	
MS & RIS	8:00 – 2:32	<u>25 Units</u>	
		50 Units	
		<u>Tier 2</u>	
HAW	8:55 – 3:27	9 units	
HOM	8:55 – 3:27	9 units	
MGS	8:55 – 3:27	10 units	
SHS	8:55 – 3:27	10 units	
MAG	8:35 – 3:35	1 unit	
FWS/HVS	8:15 – 3:00	2 units	
St Rose	8:30 – 3:20	<u>8-9 dedicated units</u>	
		50 units	

Option 1A

Option 1A - 50 Units

Tier 1

School	Start/End
NHS	8:00 – 2:42
MS & RIS	8:00 – 2:42

of Units

25 Units – 65/bus

25 Units – 52/bus

50 Units

Average Max Ride Time of 40 minutes & Majority of ride Times under 45 minutes
 **There would be 2 routes with 50-55 minute Ride Time
 There would be 1155 seats available for each set of 25 units with 1624 HS students and 1287 RIS & MS students

Tier 2

HAW	9:05 – 3:37
HOM	9:05 – 3:37
MGS	9:05 – 3:37
SHS	9:05 – 3:37
MAG	8:35 – 3:35
FWS/HVS	8:15 – 3:00
St Rose	8:30 – 3:20

9 units

9 units

10 units

10 units

1 unit

2 units

8-9 dedicated units

50 units

Average Max Ride Time of 31 minutes

Majority of Ride Times under 40 Minutes

**These stay the same all of the below scenarios

Option 1A - 48 Units

Tier 1

School	Start/End
NHS	8:00 – 2:42
MS & RIS	8:00 – 2:42

of Units

24 Units – 68/bus

24 Units – 54/bus

48 Units

Average Max Ride Time of 42 minutes &

Majority of ride Times under 50 minutes

**There would be 3 routes with 50-55 minute Ride Time

**There would be 2 routes with 60-70 minute Ride Time

There would be 1144 seats available for each set of 24 units with 1624 HS students and 1287 RIS & MS students

***Longer routes on Tier 1 limits ability for those buses

To be able to do a Tier 2 route in the afternoon.

Option 1A - 46 Units

Tier 1

School	Start/End
NHS	8:00 – 2:42
MS & RIS	8:00 – 2:42

of Units

23 Units – 71/bus
23 Units -56/bus
46 Units

Average Max Ride Time of 42 minutes &
Half of buses w/ride Times under 50 minutes
**There would be 4 routes with 50-55 minute Ride Time
**There would be 4 routes with 60-70 minute Ride Time
There would be 1133 seats available for each set of 23 units
with 1624 HS students and 1287 RIS & MS students

Option 1A - 44 Units

Tier 1

School	Start/End
NHS	8:00 – 2:42
MS & RIS	8:00 – 2:42

of Units

22 Units – 74/bus
22 Units – 59/bus
44 Units

Average Max Ride Time of 42 minutes &
Minority of ride Times under 50 minutes
**There would be 4 routes with 50-55 minute Ride Time
**There would be 8 routes with 60-70 minute Ride Time
There would be 1082 seats available for each set of 22 units
with 1624 HS students and 1287 RIS & MS students

Option 2A

Option 2 – Reconfigured 3 Tier system with MS to Tier 2. Listed below are suggested start and end times.

<u>Tier 1</u>		
School	Start/End	Units
NHS	7:20 – 2:02	42.50
<u>Tier 2</u>		
MS & RIS	8:05 – 2:47	30
St Rose	8:00 – 2:50	8-9
Magnet	8:35 – 3:35	1
No MS/RIS due to length		3
		42
<u>Tier 3</u>		
Elementary	9:05 – 3:37	34-38
DNBY MAG	8:35 – 3:35	1
No Elem due to length		5
		42

Pros – **No additional units required. Possible to decrease number of buses in future years as enrollment declines. Least disruptive to the current schedule. No disruption to elementary school times. Buses should be able to drop off 10+ minutes later at NHS

Cons - **Not use how it effects Special Ed Transportation without more information. Additional unit(s) may be required. Still have to stagger pick up in 2 waves. Aggressive schedule however similar to current schedule. Reduction in units could neutralize any time savings to D/O times

Option 2B

Option 2B – Same as 2A except HS, MS & RIS shortened school day by 10 minutes to 6 hrs 32 mins - lines up with Elementary

<u>Tier 1</u>		
School	Start/End	Units
NHS	7:35 – 2:07	42.50
<u>Tier 2</u>		
MS & RIS	8:15 – 2:47	30
St Rose	8:00 – 2:50	8-9
Magnet	8:35 – 3:35	1
No MS/RIS due to length		3
		42
<u>Tier 3</u>		
Elementary	9:05 – 3:37	34-38
DNBY MAG	8:35 – 3:35	1
No Elem due to length		5
		42

Pros – **Same as 2A with decreasing current 6 hr 42 min school day by 10 minutes for NHS, NMS & Reed which allows D/O at NHS to be moved back to approximately 7:05-7:10 am vs 6:45 am currently. Majority of buses can start P/U's at 6:45 or later vs 6:15 currently

Cons - **Same as 2A except this option decreases the school day For HS, MS & RIS by 10 minutes Per day. May Require time change for St Rose due to later drop off at NHS. TBD

Option 2B – Same as 2A except HS, MS & RIS shortened school day by 10 minutes to 6 hrs 32 mins - lines up with Elementary

<u>Tier 1</u>			
School	Start/End	Units	# Hours
NHS	7:35 – 2:07	42.50	6.32
<u>Tier 2</u>			
MS & RIS	8:15 – 2:47	30	6.32
St Rose	8:10 – 3:00	8-9	
Magnet	8:35 – 3:35	1	
No MS/RIS due to length		3	
		42	
<u>Tier 3</u>			
Elementary	9:05 – 3:37	34-38	6.32
DNBY MAG	8:35 – 3:35	1	
No Elem due to length		5	
		42	

Pros – **Same as 2A with decreasing current 6 hr 42 min school day by 10 minutes for NHS, NMS & Reed which allows D/O at NHS to be moved back to approximately 7:00-7:05 am vs 6:45 am currently. Majority of buses can start P/U's at 6:35 or later vs 6:15 currently

Cons - **Same as 2A except this option decreases the school day For HS, MS & RIS by 10 minutes Per day. May Require time change for St Rose due to later drop off at NHS. Final schedule TBD
 No change to Elementary schedule, routes and ride times remain the same.

Moving the Middle School to Tier 2 likely to require 1 – 2 additional vans for Special Ed vans at \$58k per van
 I need to review the options with Pupil Services. TBD

Option 3A

Option 2 – Reconfigured 3 Tier system with Elementary to Tier 1, RIS & NMS to Tier 2 and NMS to Tier 3. Below are suggested start and end times.

	<u>Tier 1</u>	
Elementary	7:50 – 2:22	39 units
	<u>Tier 2</u>	
St Rose	8:00 – 2:50	8-9
MS & RIS	8:35 – 3:17	32
MAG	8:35 – 3:35	<u>1 unit</u>
		42 units
	<u>Tier 3</u>	
NHS	9:20 – 4:07	41 units (or less)

Depart NHS 4:15 pm – Majority of students Dropped off by 4:45 pm with 3-4 routes not dropping off until 4:55-5:00 pm
With sunset around 4:30 pm in the winter months.

Option 3B

Option 2 – Reconfigured 3 Tier system with Elementary to Tier 1, RIS & NMS to Tier 2 and NMS to Tier 3. Below are suggested start and end times.

	<u>Tier 1</u>	
Elementary	7:30 – 2:02	39 units
	<u>Tier 2</u>	
St Rose	8:00 – 2:50	8-9
HS	8:15 – 2:57	32
MAG	8:35 – 3:35	<u>1 unit</u>
		42 units
	<u>Tier 3</u>	
MS & RIS	9:05 – 3:47	41 units

Elementary P/U's starting around 6:45/6:50 am

Option 4

Revised 4/19/17

2 Tier System with HS/MS on Tier 1 and Reed and Elementary Schools on Tier 2 – Requires 4.5 additional units approx. \$62k

	<u>Tier 1</u>		
NHS	7:50 – 2:32	43 units	6.42
NMS	7:50 – 2:32	Shared HS & MS	
HVWS/FWS	8:15 – 3:00	3 units	
H.A.T.	7:20 – 2:10	<u>1 unit</u>	
		47 units	
	<u>Tier 2</u>		
REED	8:55 – 3:27	38 units	6.32
Elementary	9:05 – 3:37	Shared RIS & Elem	
St Rose	8:40 – 3:30	8 units	
MAG	8:35 – 3:35	<u>1 unit</u>	
		47 units	

PRO -

- Moves the HS and MS start 30 minutes later which is the closest to goal set by the committee of 8:30 am start
- Least disruptive to after school activities and sports
- Later start time reduces issue of students waiting in the dark

CON -

- Option is not cost neutral with approx. \$62k additional cost for transportation depending on vehicle configuration.
- Combines Reed and Elementary Schools on same buses which will lengthen ride times by 15-20 minutes for Elementary students
- Distance from Reed to Hawley is approx. 2 miles with 6 speed bumps
- Distance from Reed to Sandy Hook is approx. 3 miles with 4 traffic lights
- Distance from Reed to Head O Meadow approx. 4 miles with 3 traffic lights and Sugar St bridge replacement.
- Distance from Reed to Middle Gate approx. 4 miles with 3 traffic lights
- Requires shortening Reed's school day by 12 minutes from 6hrs 44min to 6hrs 32 mins
- Buses would be closer to maximum capacity students which may result in increased behavior issues.
- Requires time major change for St Rose School
- Danbury Magnet students will no longer be able to ride Reed buses in the morning.

Notes --

The current maximum ride time for Elementary students is 35 minutes with the last student drop off at 4:25 pm. The current maximum ride time for Reed Students is 45 minutes with the last student drop off at 3:42 pm. Combining Reed with the Elementary schools would increase Elementary student ride times approx. 15-20 minutes in the morning and approx. 5 minutes in the afternoon. Approximate 5-10 minute change in ride time for Reed students.

Option 5

Revised 5/05/17

2 Tier System with HS/MS on Tier 1 and Reed and Elementary Schools on Tier 2 – Requires 4.5 additional units approx. \$62k

Tier 1

NHS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	43 units – Shared
NMS	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	with HS & MS
HVWS/FWS	8:15 – 3:00		3 units
H.A.T.	7:20 – 2:10		<u>1 unit</u>
			47 units

Tier 2

REED	8:55 – 3:27	(6.32 hrs)	38 units - Shared
Elementary	9:05 – 3:37	(6.32 hrs)	with Reed & Elem
St Rose	8:40 – 3:30		8 units
MAG	9:00 – 3:30		<u>1 unit</u>
			47 units

PRO -

- Moves the HS and MS start 40 minutes later.
- Least disruptive to after school activities and sports
- Least disruptive to Magnet Arts schedule
- Student preference according to student survey
- Later start time reduces issue of students waiting in the dark

CON -

- Decreases HS & MS School day by 10 minutes
- Decreases Reed School day by 12 minutes
- Option is not cost neutral with approx. \$62k additional cost for transportation depending on vehicle configuration.
- Combines Reed and Elementary Schools on same buses which will lengthen ride times by 15-20 minutes for Elementary students
- Requires time major change for St Rose
- Special Ed trans may require an additional unit approx. \$53k TBD

Logistical Comments

The current maximum ride time for Elementary students is 35 minutes with the last student drop off at 4:25 pm. The current maximum ride time for Reed Students is 45 minutes with the last student drop off at 3:42 pm. Combining Reed with the Elementary schools would increase Elementary student ride times approx. 15-20 minutes in the morning And approx. 5 minutes in the afternoon. Approximate 5-10-minute change in ride time for Reed students.

Option 6

Revised 5/05/17

2 Tier System with Reed & Elementary on Tier 1. HS & MS on Tier 2 – Requires 7.5 additional units approx. \$160k

Tier 1

REED	7:30 – 2:02 (6.32 hrs)	39 units - Shared
Elementary	7:40 – 2:12 (6.32 hrs)	with RIS & Elem
St Rose	7:20 – 2:10	8 units
HAT AM	7:20 – 2:10	1 unit
Nonn AM	7:25 – 2:15	2 units
		50 units

Tier 2

NHS	8:30 – 3:12 (6.42 hrs)	44 units – Shared
NMS	8:30 – 3:12 (6.42 hrs)	with HS & MS
DNBY MAG	9:00 – 3:30	1 unit
VOAG-Nonn	7:25 - 2:15	2 units
HVWS/FWS	8:15 – 3:00	3 units
		50 units

PRO -

- Achieves the recommended 8:30 am start time for HS & MS

CON -

- Option is not cost neutral with approx. \$160k additional cost for transportation depending on vehicle configuration.
- Requires flipping Elementary & Reed to Tier 1 and NHS & NMS to Tier 2
- Combines Reed and Elementary Schools on same buses which will lengthen ride times by 15-20 minutes for Elementary students
- Requires time major change for All Schools
- Scheduling Conflicts for sport and after school activities for NHS & NMS
- Magnet Arts students would miss an additional 1 hr 10 mins

Logistical Comments

- Tier 1 pickups would start around 6:30 am which is 1 hour before sunrise (7:31 am) in early November with twilight at (7:02) and 45 minutes before sunrise (7:19) in mid-January with twilight at (6:48) before in mid-January.

Option 7

Revised 5/05/17

Same as Option 6 except start times moved forward 30 minutes for Reed & Elementary Schools and 20 minutes for NHS & NMS. – **Requires 7.5 additional units approx. \$160k**

Tier 1

REED	8:00 – 2:32	(6.32 hrs)	39 units - Shared
Elementary	8:10 – 2:42	(6.32 hrs)	with RIS & Elem
St Rose	7:50 – 2:40		8 units
HAT AM	7:20 – 2:10		1 unit
<u>Nonn AM</u>	<u>7:25 – 2:15</u>		<u>2 units</u>
			50 units

Tier 2

NHS	9:00 – 3:42	(6.42 hrs)	44 units – Shared
NMS	9:00 – 3:42	(6.42 hrs)	with HS & MS
DNBY MAG	9:00 – 3:30		1 unit
VOAG-Nonn	7:25 - 2:15		2 units
<u>HVWS/FWS</u>	<u>8:15 – 3:00</u>		<u>3 units</u>
			50 units

Notes: Same as Option 6 except start times moved Back 30 minutes for Reed & Elementary Schools and 30 minutes for NHS & NMS.

PRO -

- Exceeds the recommended 8:30 am start time with 8:50 start
- Greatly reduces PreK-6 students getting picked up in the dark

CON -

- Option is not cost neutral with approx. \$160k additional cost for transportation depending on vehicle configuration.
- Requires flipping Elementary & Reed to Tier 1 and NHS & NMS to Tier 2
- Combines Reed and Elementary Schools on same buses which will lengthen ride times by 15-20 minutes for Elementary students
- Requires time major change for All Schools
- Scheduling Conflicts for sport and after school activities for NHS & NMS
- Magnet Arts students would miss an additional 1 hr 40 mins

Logistical Comments

- Tier 1 pickups would start around 7:05 am which is 30 mins before sunrise (7:31) in early November however twilight is (7:02) and 15 minutes before sunrise (7:19) in mid-January with twilight at (6:48)