

School Start Time Committee  
Council Chambers  
June 12, 2017  
10:00 a.m.

Present:	J. Erardi	K. Joyce	J. Dufour
	E. Aho	M. Ku	B. Gasparine
	A. Colangelo (absent)	M. Memoli	C. Geissler
	D. Cruson	D. Roach	C. Moretti
	J. Davila	L. Rodrigue	T. Napolitano
	J. Fonovic	J. Vouros	A. Uberti
	T. Harrison	H. Werner	
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Dr. Erardi introduced John Dufour of All-Star Transportation and principals Barbara Gasparine, Chris Geissler, Chris Moretti, Tim Napolitano, and Anne Uberti.

Dr. Erardi summarized the work of the committee. The St. Rose issue has been resolved and the \$62,000 is no longer part of the plan so there is no additional cost. We are looking at existing routes and the average additional ride time will be nine minutes. Regarding sixth grade students who are uncomfortable going back to Sandy Hook School we have a plan to take them directly home. We are not sure of the number of students at this time. We asked the elementary principals to be here to address the student shuttles and what it will look like at their schools. The Board discussion will be around being comfortable losing the 10 and 12 minutes each day, the nine-minute additional ride time, and the shuttle bus safety.

Dr. Erardi also spoke about a possible solution to the shuttle in tier 2 with no added ride time or costs. Elementary times would be 8:55 a.m. to 3:27 p.m. and Reed would be 9:00 a.m. to 3:22 p.m. but would lose an additional 10 minutes for a total of 22 minutes lost per day. In the morning Reed and elementary would be on the same buses but the elementary students will be dropped off first and then the bus will go to Reed. In the afternoon, all buses will start at Reed and then go to the elementary schools.

Mrs. Evans Davila spoke about the start and end times for districts in our DRG.

Mr. Harrison wanted to see the high schools that are starting after 8:00 a.m. and how their day was scheduled.

Mr. Moretti spoke about how the shuttle would work at Hawley School which only has one way in and out. Three buses would bring Reed students to Hawley for pickup. The concern is the identification of Reed students being picked up by parents with their Hawley sibling. They are working on bus order and need to look at parking to provide room for the students getting off the bus.

Ms. Gasparine said Head O'Meadow School has student pick up in the gym. They will provide signs with parent names to put in their front window. They plan to double park six buses in the front and the three Reed buses together by the sidewalk and would increase staff outside.

Mr. Geissler said at Middle Gate School the main entrance and fire lane is open for buses in the afternoon. We will have buses park down farther to allow more room for the Reed buses. They expect to add staff by the first bus and security by the main entrance. Someone will walk the students to the Reed buses.

Mr. Napolitano said that Sandy Hook School has a large bus loop so Reed buses can park anywhere. There is plenty of staff outside for dismissal.

Mr. Dufour stated that these were good plans and suggested that staff outside wear marked yellow vests. We will have Reed buses parked at the end. The biggest issue is making sure Reed students ride the correct bus.

Mrs. Uberti said it would be helpful if the Reed students be assigned a specific bus going to the elementary schools.

Mr. Vouros asked if there was any available property next to Hawley School that could be used for extra parking for the staff to free up space in the front to help with the bus line up.

Mr. Moretti said that behind the school are the fields, on one side there is property that is occupied and the house on the other side is unoccupied and in disrepair.

Mr. Vouros asked about the Sandy Hook School shuttle for Reed students choosing not to go to that school. His concern is what happens when there are more students that don't want to go there.

Dr. Erardi said that 75 former Sandy Hook students will be in sixth grade next year. He would notify the parents of what will be available and that there would be a dedicated bus for that group. He feels that Option 5 is a plan we can launch successfully. If we don't make a decision in the next two weeks All-Star will not have enough time.

Mr. Cruson asked if All-Star was comfortable in being able to make this work for the next school year.

Mr. Dufour said they were and have already started working on it.

Mr. Clure asked if there would be any additional staff needed to help with the shuttle system.

Dr. Erardi said everyone has duties and he did not foresee any additional cost.

Mr. Harrison asked about Abbott Tech and Nonnewaug.

Dr. Erardi said they were all set.

Dr. Erardi asked the principals to attend the Board meeting. He will send out an email to parents with the information discussed and asked Board members to send any questions to him.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June