

School Start Time Committee
Council Chambers
March 20, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Present:	J. Erardi	M. Ku
	J. Davila	M. Memoli
	D. Cruson	D. Roach
	R. Dufour	L. Rodrigue
	J. Fonovic	J. Ross
	K. Gombos	J. Vouros
	T. Harrison	2 Public

Dr. Erardi stated that Tom Einhorn and Jim Ross would rotate meetings. He expected two or three parents will be part of the committee.

The Board presentation will be June 6 with practice in place for the 2017-2018 school year. The community forum on March 29 will be on this subject with thoughts from the community.

There will be three subcommittees in this group to provide information on research, implementation and transparency.

Mrs. Ku suggested for the research portion we need to look at surrounding communities. Mr. Vouros has concerns about the transportation part and hopes all schools remain where they are. Students missing high school sports is also a concern. He, Mrs. Ku and Mrs. Harriman-Stites are going to the national conference on this subject in Washington in April. He called Wilton regarding their research but they had no statistics but it works for their district.

Dr. Erardi shared the current school start times. We need to also add the three private schools. Mr. Dufour said that Wilton is much smaller than Newtown and has 30 minutes between tiers.

Mr. Vouros asked if the police should be involved to work on alleviating the traffic problem at the high school.

Dr. Rodrigue's concern starting the high school an hour later is that it runs into people going to work.

Dr. Erardi said the high school and middle school start times are the drivers. The community believes they start too early. Students do not want to change. We will have student representatives at some point on this committee. The decision has to be what is best for teaching and learning for students. Next meeting we will lay out scenarios with different start times and look to validate that from the Washington meeting.

Dr. Rodrigue said that student voices are critical. We need to know the end goal and the research as well as issues that might get in the way.

Mr. Harrison said the end of day for parents involves pickup for activities. Some students have to do homework in the morning.

Mrs. Ku said the consultant who did the transportation study said the two tier system was a possibility.

Mr. Dufour stated that New Milford is on a two tier system with a start time of 7:40 a.m. and end time of 2:20 p.m. The high school, middle school and Reed are on the same tier between 8:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. The elementary would stay the same but we would need 8 to 10 more buses.

Dr. Erardi asked what we have to do to start the high school 8:20 a.m. The community assumption is the high school should start later, the elementary earlier and the middle school and Reed in the middle. His concern is that adult perspective will be different from the student voice.

Mr. Vouros feels we need to see what transportation looks like if we start the high school later and the cost factor before going forward.

Dr. Erardi asked Mr. Dufour to prepare a number of scenarios on how we can start the high school later without any cost ends.

Mr. Vouros suggested Mr. Dufour provide a comparison of transportation issues for the high school with traffic and without.

Mrs. Davila said there should also be research about elementary students being sharper in the morning.

Mrs. Ku said the charge is specific to start times for the high school and middle school.

Dr. Erardi asked that Mr. Dufour look at starting the middle school and high school one hour later.

Mr. Dufour said some scenarios won't work for a couple of years because of enrollment.

Mr. Memoli will speak to other schools regarding practices and competition.

Mr. Vouros asked Mr. Memoli if other high school have changed times.

Mr. Memoli said Wilton and Easton changed and have a 15 to 20 minute difference.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June