

School Start Time Committee
Council Chambers
April 24, 2017
10:00 a.m.

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|----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 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 (absent) | 2 Public |
| | T. Harrison | 1 Press |

Mr. Roach's committee developed survey questions which were given to the high school students last Friday with 921 students responding.

Mr. Harrison summarized the results. Most students go to sleep between 10 and 11 p.m. but could use an extra half hour. Many are involved in extra-curricular activities so a dismissal at 2:30 or 2:40 p.m. is best.

Mr. Memoli said that for athletes he preferred not going past the 2:40 p.m. time lot. Most students wanted more sleep but also wanted to end the day at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Einhorn was going to give the middle school students the same survey this week.

Dr. Erardi mentioned the research group to Washington to attend the adolescent sleep study conference in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday.

Mrs. Davila said that Greenwich has information on their website. Her subcommittee wants to have Dr. Jennifer Kanaan speak to the community. They discussed a possible survey and were going to see if other districts conducted one.

Dr. Erardi shared that Dr. Kanaan has been involved in this conversation. She is also on a national platform regarding adolescent sleep study. The subcommittee needs to narrow down her focus area for the community.

Mrs. Ku felt it was important to educate parents on how to help their children with sleep issues.

Mr. Dufour presented Option 2C with three tiers having the elementary schools in session from 9:35 a.m. to 4:07 p.m. and the high school starting at 7:50 a.m. Everything including pick up times move back 30 minutes. High school pickup time would be 6:45 a.m. In looking at special education transportation Options 2A and 2C would need an additional van for these students.

Mr. Einhorn stated that if they had a 3:17 p.m. dismissal time they would have to look at other districts regarding sports competition times.

Ms. Joyce feels the 4:55 p.m. last drop for elementary schools is problem for afterschool activities.

Mrs. Werner expressed concern with students getting off the bus in the dark during the winter months.

Mr. Harrison agreed. He prefers the bus rides to be 20 or 30 minutes.

Mr. Dufour said that with Option 4 we would need larger buses. With Reed and the elementary schools riding together, Reed would have to decrease the school day by 12 minutes. There would also be a major time change for St. Rose.

Dr. Erardi stated that Option 4 moved the high school and middle school 30 minutes and provides a better ending time for the elementary schools.

Mr. Dufour said the elementary run times would increase by 15 or 20 minutes.

Dr. Erardi asked for comments regarding Options 4 and 2C.

Mr. Vouros said Option 4 requires an additional \$62,000 for transportation.

Mr. Roach said this option is around the high school preferred time from the student survey.

Mr. Cruson was comfortable with Option 4. Option 2C is too late for the elementary schools.

Mrs. Davila felt Option 4 would be a benefit.

Ms. Joyce said that if elementary students ride to Reed there would be more bus issues with them being on the bus so long.

Mr. Harrison asked how many buses it would take in Option 4 to get the middle school and high school ride time to 30 minutes.

Mr. Dufour said it would take 8 buses.

Mr. Harrison suggested adding buses in small increments each year so it wouldn't be as costly.

Mr. Dufour said we have St. Rose students on Reed buses so we have that mix now. There will have to be some discussion between the Reed and elementary principals.

Dr. Erardi said we would send everyone the May faculty and PTA meeting dates for us to have representation to share where we are at this time. At least two members would be at each meeting. The community conversation date will be shared at those meetings along with the common talking points for that grade level school.

Mr. Vouros asked to invite the PTA presidents to one of our meetings.

Dr. Erardi said they would be asked to attend our May 8 meeting.

Mr. Roach asked if any option we chose would affect after school sports trips.

Mr. Dufour said they might be able to adjust the times if they do.

Dr. Rodrigue felt that some internal changes could be made to help adjust times. We should also look at adjusting times where there isn't a cost for buses. She doesn't want to go to the Board with only one option.

Mrs. Ku asked if Option 4 involved the shuttle buses.

Mr. Dufour was it does. It's not ideal, but is doable.

Dr. Erardi said that for next Monday's meeting we will have the results of the research committee, the results of the middle school survey, and the schedule of faculty and PTA meetings. He would also try to attend. Transportation will continue working on options. By May 3 we should have a consensus from the committee. The Board would like more than one option.

Dr. Rodrigue referred to Option 2B with the high school start time of 7:35 a.m. With elementary schools we don't want to push them back as they are up earlier. There are creative ways to look at playing with the numbers as there may be a structure with no costs and a better fit. Some districts that made a change had to go back and make adjustments. We should look at every variable.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June