

School Start Time Committee Minutes - March 13, 2015

Present: Deirdre d'Albertis, Laura Schulkind, Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell, Diane Lyons

Prior to the meeting the committee reviewed additional research regarding the benefits of changing the start time. This research suggests that there is a benefit to any later start time, although longer is more beneficial.

Currently, the committee has been exploring the feasibility of four (4) options:

- "Flip/flop" elementary and secondary bus run times, bringing elementary students to school in time for a 7:30 am start and bringing BMS and RHS students in for an 8:55 am start;
- "Single-trip" elementary and secondary students, resulting in CLS, BMS, and RHS students riding on the same buses at the same time, allowing for the same later start time for all three schools;
- Maintain a busing configuration similar to the current one, with BMS/RHS students starting school at a later time (perhaps 8:00 am for secondary students) and ending school at a later time (perhaps 2:45 pm for secondary and 3:40 pm for elementary students);
- Maintain the current bus schedules and start times in all buildings.

Mr. Burnell is continuing to work with the bus company to determine the following:

1-What the change in cost might be if the district went to a one bus (single trip) system. This would be all schools starting at approximately the same time with students K-12 riding the same busses. Looking into monitors/late busses/ride time.

2-If it is possible to shift BMS/RHS 30 minutes later and keep CLS at roughly the same time. Currently there is down time in-between the runs. It is not clear if this will be enough time, especially in the afternoon. The bell schedule in the three buildings does not match up exactly.

There are some bus options the district is already looking at, i.e. optimizing the buses, which would assign more students to a bus than we currently do. This could save one or two bus runs. There is a high number of students that are currently assigned to a bus but do not ride the bus. There is no opt-out policy allowed by the State. The second area affects the mile limit that the district legally needs to transport students. Currently the district does more than required.

The law requires grades 7-12 students to be picked up from 3 miles away from the school and K-6 students 2 miles away. We currently pick up K-5 students at any distance and 6-12 students from 1 mile away. There are a few exceptions to this. In order to make a change to this procedure the public would need to vote on this.

It was noted that any of these changes could affect ridership that wouldn't be known until after the change is put in place.

The committee would like to proceed with the following timeline.

1 –The end of April-inform the board of any changes that may affect the budget.

2-April/May BoE meetings-continue to report to the board on our final meetings.

3-May 26th - Schedule a special early public hearing to review all three options and the committee's recommendation.

4-June 9th or 23rd BoE meeting-Put on the agenda any board action required.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Lyons