

School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

August 11, 2015

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

The Committee has spent a great deal of time over the past year on serious study of this issue, understanding that the Board does not want to rush to any decision about changing the school start time (or maintaining the status quo) for BMS/RHS. We need to give people in the community ample opportunity to comment as we continue to explore all options.

The District has contracted with a new bus company at considerable savings for the upcoming year. So too, routes have been re-organized to optimize capacity and to save money. Once the newly re-configured routes are well established, we can begin to consider how any change to start times would impact the current system. So too, the Committee remains open to exploring the cost/feasibility of an additional "late" bus for sports/clubs participants, depending on need.

In the coming semester, the group would like to accomplish the following:

--Discuss any proposed change in start time with both the teachers' association and non-instructional unit to gather feedback and suggestions.

--Create and disseminate a video via YouTube outlining the findings of our group, the issues as we see them, and the pros/cons of various solutions to the problem of inadequate sleep for our teenagers. Such a short informational video could be distributed via School Messenger, as well as through the District's new website. Perhaps the AV club could assist? Ask if the Chamber of Commerce could assist in gathering input from local businesses (where many students have after-school jobs).

--Distribute a brief survey to all parents and students (the latter using District e-mail accounts), as part of this phase of information sharing. Reach out to students via student government and perhaps history/social studies classes to solicit their active engagement in community conversation.

--Ask that the Wellness Committee consider adding a session on Sleep, Health & Wellness during the Parent Academy to be held in late October or early November.

--Plan for a public presentation date before the holidays to allow for community dialogue.

-- Aim to bring sub-committee recommendation before the Board in the new year.

Next Steps: Tom has volunteered to outline or format a preliminary document listing the various options we have discussed. Members of the group are asked to e-mail pros/cons and data to him as he begins to prepare that material. The group's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 from 8:30-10:30 AM. Our goal is to draft a "storyboard/script" for the video at our next meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis