

School Start Time Committee minutes - December 15, 2015

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

The committee used this meeting to debrief the December 8th public meeting and to decide next steps.

The group felt that the meeting went very well with good public attendance. Joe informed the committee that since the information was recently made available to the public, there have been 52 views on you-tube, 120 views of the presentation on the website, and the presentation material has been downloaded 80 times.

The group feels that the three options that would cost additional money are still not viable, given the financial climate this year. The group would like to suggest that the shift option continue to be worked on with the possibility of little or no change to the CLS schedule. The committee will reach out to Mr. King to get some input from him on the CLS schedule. Tom provided the group with the bus by bus trip time for review. The committee was asked by a parent who wrote an index card at the December 8th meeting about the importance of looking at the number of students in before and after school care. Joe had already reached out to the day care provider for that information. The committee discussed the possible dilemma for working parents with a schedule change. Because the school day is not the same in length or schedule as a "typical" work day, it is impossible to account for every scenario. The committee discussed the importance of recognizing the effect any change may have on working families. The committee will also look at the BOCES schedule and how that looks with a possible shift to the high school schedule.

Next steps: The committee proposes putting together a minute by minute schedule using the shift option to work through a very detailed schedule. The committee had another index card question asking how we will assess the success or failure of the one year pilot and what factors we would consider. The group began discussing this important question and a few initial thoughts were to look at: tardiness, discipline, visits to the nurse, follow up surveys, and after-school activity participation. The group will consider this further at future meetings. Joe will be reaching out to other schools that have changed the start time.

The committee would like the full board to weigh in about the information they have been given and the direction they would like the committee to go from here. The committee is mindful of a February deadline making a recommendation to the full Board for any changes to the school start time for secondary students due to the scheduling of interscholastic athletics for Fall 2016-17.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Lyons