

School Start Time Committee Minutes

September 20, 2016

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

The committee discussed preliminary, informal feedback (communications with the District office, comments made by parents and teachers) about the new school start time. Anecdotal evidence suggests that students are arriving on time, there is less traffic congestion with morning drop-off, bus ridership appears to be more robust, and the abbreviated passing time between classes are working without obvious difficulty. That being said, the committee is pledged to gathering data throughout the year in order objectively to evaluate the costs and benefits of the new schedule.

Bus routes are functioning fairly well at present; making allowance for bad weather as the year continues will be important, Tom noted.

The committee is designing a survey instrument to poll parents, students, staff and teachers about the impact of a later school start time; we expect the survey to be administered in October.

In the middle of the school year the committee would like to meet again with Student Support Services to gain insight from their experience of the change; so too, we will turn to building principals for their perspective on a host of measures (attendance, club and sports participation rates).

The second in a series of SST newsletters will be issued in early October, with information geared toward starting the year right, from helping teens to manage stress to the importance of healthy nutrition before heading off to school. In keeping with the BOE's goal of promoting student health and wellness, these newsletters will be a regular feature of this committee's communication efforts this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis