

## **School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee Minutes**

January 7, 2016

Present: Deirdre d'Albertis, Diane Lyons, Laura Schulkind, Joe Phelan, Tom Burnell, and invited guest Brett King.

### **CLS Challenges**

The group met with Principal King to focus on concerns raised by teachers at CLS as well as parents about the impact of any proposed change in RHS/BMS school start time on our younger students.

Those concerns largely revolve around lengthening a day that some believe may already begin and ends later than is optimal for K-5 students (who are often most energetic early in the day).

As Joe reiterated, we have received detailed and thoughtful feedback from teachers and parents. It is crucial to engage with and be respectful of that input. Today's meeting made this our main order of business.

Brett King shared his basic willingness to think creatively and flexibly about scheduling challenges, particularly since this committee has vowed NOT to recommend any scenario that will cost the district more money. He will continue to brainstorm with Fern Lox to generate problem-solving strategies (perhaps slightly altering dismissal procedures, for instance).

The committee is looking, literally, to shave minutes from the timetable at this point; our goal is to create as little alteration of the CLS start and end times as possible.

### **Next Steps**

Diane will create a new mockup of the schedule for each building for the proposed "shift" option (moving start time in BMS and RHS to 8 AM), incorporating shorter time for passing between periods in addition to a few other minor adaptations. All suggested changes will be highlighted for discussion. We plan to circulate this model to all three principals for their feedback/ suggestions first and then share with teachers, parents, the board. Tom has begun preliminary routing for bussing in 2016-17 to aid in developing just such a very precise proposal.

The group's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis