

School Start Time Committee Meeting

December 14, 2016

Attendees: Deirdre d'Albertis, Diane Lyons, Laura Schulkind, Joe Phelan

Invited Guests: Ed Davenport, Marc Burg, John Kemnitzer, Brett King

School Administrators were invited to share any information gathered regarding the change in start time thus far. Marc Burg provided quantitative attendance and morning tardy data though cautioned that there are many variables that contribute to the data.

Attendance

Though there wasn't a large increase in school attendance in grades 6-12, there seems to be a slight uptick in attendance in all 6 grades. At BMS, the attendance rate for the first quarter was 96.71% compared with 95.42% in 2015-16 while at RHS we saw a 95.43% attendance rate vs. 95.20% in 2015-16.

Tardies

Though we still see a large number of "excused" tardies at RHS, there seems to be a marginal decrease in the number of students arriving at the first bell or later: 193 students in 2016-17 vs. 245 students in 2015-16. Tardies at BMS showed fairly significant improvement however with only 79 students in the first quarter vs. 116 students in 2015-16.

Marc will continue to collect data every quarter throughout the year for comparison purposes. Anecdotally, he reported that the day is much "smoother" and less "chaotic" since the change. Disciplinary referrals and social/emotional factors seem unchanged at this point.

Ed Davenport concurred with Marc's assessment and reported that his informal polling of students during lunch time turned up no complaints about the later time. No students are arriving between 6:30-6:45 as was feared before the pilot, though approximately 10 students arrive around 7:15.

The passing time is manageable though not perfect. Ed reported that students could be more diligent about getting to class but when asked if they need an escort, all decline the opportunity. They are not seeing students who actually don't have time to get from point A to point B, but they certainly don't have time for "social detours."

John Kemnitzer agreed with the RHS report and noted that the chaos and scramble to get to first period has reduced dramatically. In fact, the halls are quiet for the starting bell. He also reported that teachers are seeing students seemingly more focused during 1st period, and he has received no complaints from parents since the roll-out. BMS passing times have never really been an issue, and 6th graders always have a bit of a transition in their new school. Getting from Tech to Band or Chorus can be difficult, but it's clear to the teachers who is making a concerted effort to get to class on time.

Thus far, there have been no concerns reported to Ed or John regarding JV and Varsity sports schedules or club times, nor has there been any uptick in students being pulled out of 9th period early. The committee asked both Principals to provide sports and after school club participation numbers through the end of November for comparison purposes with last year.

At CLS, Brett was pleased to report that there is more before and after school enrichment than ever this year with 12-13 different programs running. Because the time for enrichment was shortened, CLS now offers 12 x 45 minutes sessions vs. the previous 10 x 60 minutes sessions. Most students arrive on time for 8:00 am sessions, but some arrive about 10 minutes early. These students are able to wait in the

cafeteria where there is an aid on duty from 7:40-9:10. Brett also noted that there has been no increase in students being picked up before the end of the day.

The greatest concerns around making the change centered around transportation. Data regarding bus arrival at CLS in the morning and the end of the day has been collected since the first day of school. With the exception of one bus in the beginning of the year, all buses arrive at CLS by 8:50 for the 9:00 start of school. The afternoon has been more problematic in that the time between bus arrival at CLS and when they have to pull out at 3:35 was fairly tight in some cases. Since the adjustments in bus runs, that issue is greatly reduced. The “on-time” arrival at CLS is 3:20, and as of the end of November, all buses are arriving on time. Brett also conveyed that adjustments to old routines have alleviated many of the student management issues including changing the times when students leave their classrooms after the buses start arriving, staging students in the cafeteria if their bus has not yet arrived, and pulling the BMS/RHS “late bus” students into the cafeteria to wait. There is increased management and communication required around the afternoon departure, but Brett is pleased with the improvement.

SST News #3

The latest issue of the School Start Time newsletter will be emailed to district parents and hard copies will be provided at the Greeter’s Desks. This issue outlines the committee’s assessment plan as well as providing links to articles regarding safe driving and ways to manage winter tiredness.

Next Meeting:

Upcoming Agenda:

Prepare Survey for Parents, Students and Teachers to be administered in January
Meet with Pupil Personnel Services re: student wellness

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schulkind