

Board of Education-School Start/End Time Task Force

November 14, 2019 12:00 PM

Weston High School Main Office Conference Room

Attendance:

William McKersie
Kenneth Crow
Phillip Cross
Lisa Wolak
Laura Kaddis
Mark Berkowitz
Stacy Slater
Erin Merrifield
Joe Parciasepe
Jenny Walsh
Kristen Ancker

Members of Public:

Ruby Hedge
Taffy Miller

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

Discussion:

Dr. McKersie welcomed the Task Force and reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. Preliminary Update Regarding Parent Focus Group(s)-Jenny Walsh & Kristen Ancker

Discussion:

Jenny Walsh, PTO representative for the upper schools, reviewed the PTO parent focus group meeting that was held on November 6, 2019, reviewed the purpose of the meeting with parents and had the group review the analytical framework and guiding questions. The parent focus group for HES/WIS will be held on December 2, 2019. The District will create a survey for all parents and staff after all focus groups have met.

3. Brief Transportation Update-Phil Cross

Discussion:

Mr. Phillip Cross, Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed the potential transportation costs of all school start and end times options. Mark Berkowitz mentioned that depending on dismissal time, additional buses may be needed to transport athletes to games.

4. Reflections on Guidance from "Norwalk Report" for Weston

Discussion:

One item of interest from the "Norwalk Report" is that because of the athletic conference that they participate in, Norwalk athletes are able to take public transportation to some of their games. Also noted is that the start times fluctuate between 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. depending on the school. The proposed changes in the start and end times for Norwalk schools were able to be altered without affect to other schools as they are not on a single campus and bus runs are independent of other schools.

5. Athletics Update Part II-Mark Berkowitz

Discussion:

Mr. Mark Berkowitz, Weston High School Athletics Director, reviewed his handout which included updated information on lighting issues of each in-conference school we play in athletics as well as the overall travel time allotted to each school. He also recalculated the total number of paid coaching positions that are filled by Weston Public School employees, which stand at 39%.

6. Update on SFCSA Superintendents' Roundtable on SS/ET

Discussion:

Dr. McKersie briefly updated the Task Force on his meeting with other area superintendents at the Southern Fairfield County Superintendent's Association. They liked the spreadsheet that was created which identified school start/end time scenarios along with questions. He indicated that more interest is growing in the area surrounding this topic.

7. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Discussion:

Items for discussion at the December 6 agenda are scheduling, update on the elementary-level parent focus groups and how to structure the surveys for parents, staff and students.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Chairperson

Superintendent