

Board of Education School Start/End Time Task Force Meeting

December 06, 2019 12:00 PM

Weston High School Main Office Conference Room

Present Committee Members:

William McKersie, Ph.D., Kenneth Craw, Ed.D., Phillip Cross, Lisa Wolak, Mark Berkowitz, Laura Kaddis, Stacey Slater, Kim Spangler, Erin Merrifield, Jenny Walsh, Kristen Ancker, Joe Parciasepe

Meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm

1. Scheduling-Ken Craw, Lisa Wolak, Laura Kaddis

- Dr. Craw introduced for the committee's consideration a new option with the ms/hs beginning at 8:15 and ending at 2:45, which represented a 15 minute reduction to the school day (6 hours and 30 minutes). He also introduced a corresponding reduction to the ES/IS school day with a (9:05 start time and 3:35 end time (6 hours and 30 minutes).
- Ms. Wolak discussed details of master schedule adjustments for three different options of school start/end times (SS/ET) for the high school.
 - Schedules included an 8:00, 8:30, and 8:35 a.m. school start time, each keeping the length of the school day at 6 hours 45 minutes and keeping the 56 minute blocks.
 - Other scheduling options included an 8:00, 8:15, and 8:30 a.m. start with a shorter day, which would keep the 2:30 p.m. end time with slightly shorter blocks.
 - Each of the options presented keep the six-block school day.
- Dr. Craw presented master schedule adjustments for SS/ET for WMS. Options included:
 - An 8:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m. school day, with each period meeting 41 instead of the current 42 minutes;
 - 8:15 am start time and 2:45 p.m. end time;
 - 8:30 start time and 3:15 end time;
 - 8:35 start time and 3:20 end time.
- Mrs. Kaddis presented the scheduling implications for the K-5 SS/ET options.
 - With a 9:00 am – 3:30 pm school day, the instructional time would reduce to 6 hrs and 30 min instead of 6 hrs 45 min.
 - A couple of minutes would be taken off various content areas.

2. Update on Elementary Parent Focus Group-Kristen Ancker and Jenny Walsh

- A small focus group of parents was convened to discuss some of the scheduling the options.
- Some thought was given to flipping the start/end time with the upper grades.
- The group expressed concerns over the impact on the lower grades with a 4:00 pm end of day as well as the impact of an early day with the children waiting at bus stops in the dark.
- One suggestion from the group was an 8:15 start time.

3. Update on Staff Focus Groups-Stacy Slater and Erin Merrifield

- Teacher representatives will meet with focus groups by building. Groups will have a good cross-section of members.
- AFSME will create and disseminate a survey to obtain information on travel time to work and to after school job responsibilities.

4. Update on Surveys for All Families, Staff and WMS/WHS Students-Bill McKersie

- Dr. McKersie spoke on the draft survey for families, staff and grade 6-12 students.
- There will be a cover memo that gives some background information and the link to the survey will be embedded.
- The Committee agreed to send to survey to parent, staff and grade 6-12 students within the same time frame.
- Parent and staff members suggested making it easier to use the survey link on a phone, if possible, in order to increase survey participation.
- The timeline for the survey was discussed and agreed upon.
- Committee agreed to have each person's name listed as task force members on the memo to be sent out with the survey.

5. Update for Board of Education at December 16, 2019 Meeting-Bill McKersie

- Dr. McKersie noted that School Start/End Time will be a public Board agenda item in the December BOE meeting and will be looking to make a recommendation to the Board in February.
- The five scenarios do not require any increased costs in order to keep the SS/ET initiative cost neutral.

6. Next Meeting Agenda

- Early survey results
- Update for the BOE meeting

No other items were put forth for discussion. Meeting was adjourned 1:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June Curiano

Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent