

School Start Time Committee
Council Chambers
April 17, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Present:	J. Erardi	K. Joyce
	E. Aho	M. Ku
	A. Colangelo	M. Memoli
	D. Cruson	D. Roach
	J. Davila	L. Rodrigue
	R. Dufour	J. Vouros
	T. Einhorn	H. Werner
	J. Fonovic	1 Public
	T. Harrison	

Mr. Roach spoke about the afterschool impact subcommittee work and the pros and cons of changing the high school start time. The issues for a later dismissal time involves issues around sports, work, ECA and RCA departure times, band, activities, clubs, sports and possible improved scores.

The middle school negatives include afterschool clubs, Queen Street traffic with a later start time, child care for younger siblings after school and in-town afterschool activities. The positives including being more in line with other middle school times, sports travel, and improved sleep and academic performance.

They discussed the Reed School which is the best time slot. If they moved either way they would have the same issues as the middle school and high school.

Elementary school negatives include the impact on before school program, staff meetings and issues around less sleep. The positives are more time for enrichment opportunities, CCD, karate, scouts and after school play dates.

The high school would have more of a cultural change with afterschool activities. Any changes need to be communicated to the teachers, parents and the community as soon as possible.

Mrs. Davila reported that this week she would review the Hanover Report which Greenwich used and research other district in Connecticut including Wilton. Mr. Vouros would be contacting New Canaan. Mrs. Ku would contact Kim Beck in Ridgefield. Kim Joyce will bring back surveys from other districts and monitor a survey monkey. The group will see if districts consulted outside agencies, how they handled transportation and sports, pros and cons, and why they decided not to make any changes.

Mr. Dufour spoke about additional options provided to the committee. Option 4 which is cost neutral would put the elementary and Reed schools together with a drop off at Reed first. The afternoon would have three elementary buses go to Reed first and then onto their school. The impact is less than five minutes. The elementary travel time would be 30 to 35 minutes.

Dr. Erardi said it would be 50 minutes for outlying roads.

Option 2B has some issues with special education students and may need an additional vehicle. There would be an extra 30 minutes of sleep for high school students. Option 3 was ruled out because of the late dismissal time.

Dr. Erardi feels Option 2B has a substantial change for the middle school and almost insignificant change for the high school.

Mrs. Davila was concerned about reducing instructional time in Option 4.

Dr. Erardi spoke about the committee charge. We need to add student voices for the middle and high schools. He asked the tier options group to spend time with Option 2B without impacting the length of the school day. We also have to look at contractual changes.

Mr. Vouros asked Dr. Rodrigue for her ideal scenario

Dr. Rodrigue also liked Option 4 as well as 2B with the 20 or 25 minute later start. Students feel it will hurt them if we go too far with the start time. We should not go beyond a 2:30 dismissal time. On PLC days students are more awake. We don't need an hour to make a difference.

Mr. Einhorn favored the middle school starting 40 to 45 minutes later.

Ms. Joyce felt that having children on a longer ride in the morning is a concern.

Dr. Erardi suggested looking at the Greenwich times and asked if the committee wanted further conversations regarding reversing the elementary school times with the middle and high school times.

Mr. Cruson said the community would not be alright with this. He was not sure if it would be a consideration.

Mr. Harrison said that the safety aspect of elementary children in the dark is a concern.

Mrs. Ku said it also puts Reed students out in the early hours.

Dr. Erardi said our geography makes it more difficult. Everyone should think if Option 2B being endorsed as the first option and how we would deal with that. Research needs conversations with other districts.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June