

Transportation Task Force Meeting
February 5, 2018
Council Chambers
8:00 AM

All members were present with the exception of Katie Burke.
Dr. Rodrigue provided filtered feedback from the survey. Ride time seems the biggest issue and the shuttle wasn't as significant.

Mrs. Burke requested that we relook at her plan.

Mrs. Vadas spoke about the options. It is impossible to fit three tiers in this time frame. Starting at 8:00 a.m. students will get home late closer to 5:15 p.m.

D. Rodrigue said another question was to look at the secondary ride times. We are focused on Reed and the elementary schools. She asked Mr. Dufour to look at the shuttle versus no shuttle.

Mr. Dufour said there was no way we could not have shuttles in the afternoon.

Dr. Rodrigue referred to the no shuttle option and said that if we keep current system with no shuttle then Sandy Hook will be dropped off we can add shuttles for Reed but the elementary ride times will increase.

Mrs. Galassi said people are not happy with the current system. She feels we need some offset of times. It works, but is difficult. It's hard for the students to have to wait at the end of the day.

Mr. Moretti said there is a seven minute layover between dismissal and getting on the buses. Staff wise, everyone has been calm because they feel it will be different next year.

Mrs. Galassi said we need funds to help it work more efficiently.

Dr. Rodrigue stated that we looked at that but it would be less efficient. We are looking at more buses for the shuttle. She asked is we wanted to flip the times.

Mrs. Ku stated that maybe it would be better to have a longer school day.

Mr. Moretti said there would have to be some kind of mandate for the time between 8:45 and 9:05 and what the teachers do during that time.

Mr. Moretti asked if we are in the mix with ride times compared to other towns.

Mr. Dufour said Brookfield and New Milford ride times are 45 to 55 minutes. Here there would be a balance between morning and afternoon. He hopes to get them to 38 minutes.

Mr. Moretti said the elementary schools staff meetings have been impacted because they are usually held before school starts so they have had to be shortened. We will have to start at 7:45 next year instead of 8:00.

Dr. Rodrigue summarized option B. The highlights being offset times for RIS and adding 5 minutes back for 6.32 hour day. No wait time in a.m. or p.m.

Mr. Dufour feels we can keep any ride increase in a.m. to no more than 8-12 minutes (average).

Dr. Rodrigue expects we will be able to use the back driveway at Reed to avoid traffic at the light, if approved. In addition, police presence in the morning will expedite traffic. We will try to minimize ride times including express buses and hope to clear all buses by 4:20.

Teams selected groups to work.