

High School Start Times Committee.

November 7, 2016

Summary

Welcome – Introductions

Introductions were made around the table: In attendance were: Erika Jennings, Shannon Tippleleen, Jan Phillips, Kim Dreier, Kathleen Hodges, Helen Nind, Becky Olds, Kelly Johnson, Stewart Mhyre, Patrick Murphy, Craig Christensen, Anne McMurray, and Debbie Jakala, Randal Elder, Kelly Armentrout, Beverly W., Jennifer Venema, Laurel Callan, Heather Armstrong, Mitchel Givens, Barb Lloyd, Jenni McCloughan, Beth Fleming, Diane R.

Review Norms

The group reviewed the operating norms and agreed to continue with them.

Reviewed Last Meeting

The group discussed an overview of the “Golden” proposal and its accompanying 8:40 start time for comprehensive high schools. It was reiterated that the proposal would require additional bus drivers at a cost of over \$500,000 per year and a one-time purchase of busses costing over \$1.2 million. In addition – seven elementary schools would move to a later start time of 9:20 to 3:50. The group was reminded that the proposal would require Food Service to pay approximately \$36,000 dollars more per year and a number of food service employees would have their work day lengthened with a required flex shift where staff would clock off and back on mid-day. The committee reviewed the impact to student athletes and missing of class time, and the potential for a dramatic increase in sub costs for teacher/coaches. All of this information is detailed in the attachments of Oct. 27

New Information

The group reviewed student leadership feedback from Meadowdale Middle and High School – attachment in Nov. 7 folder. The group discussed recent media attention and a newspaper article as well.

Closer to 8:00 a.m. proposal

The transportation department did a very preliminary analysis of a proposal that would involve combining middle and high schoolers on busses and moving the high school start time back less significantly, only 25 minutes, to a 7:45 start time with all other school remaining unchanged. This proposal would cost \$2,278,612 in a onetime bus purchase and an ongoing annual cost for additional drivers of approximately \$779,688. It also would entail moving the three 8:00 elementary schools to either an 840 or 9:20 start time.

During this discussion, Transportation Director Christensen noted that the district had pretty much maximized the amount of money that could possibly be acquired from the state for transportation. He mentioned that even if, for example, 300 new riders surfaced as a result of a more conducive bell schedule that would likely not result in additional monies. The reason for this is that funding is based largely on routes not necessarily the number of riders. Because most of our secondary bus runs have

capacity to add anywhere from 10 to 20 additional riders – it is not likely we would add enough new riders to warrant a new bus run that would add funding.

Current Realities Exercise

The committee broke into small groups and once again reviewed the current bus routes and times at all district schools. Each group was asked to do some outside the box thinking on ways to move back high school times that might not have already been proposed.

The groups reported back several ideas and concepts:

- 1) Any good proposal is likely to cost money – probably significant money and that is just the reality.
- 2) Are there any ways not thought of to transport SPED students?
- 3) Since Madrona and Maplewood are choice schools – could parents be required to transport their own student? Would that free up resources to move high schools back?
- 4) We should make this change because it is the right thing for our students and families not because it is convenient or for some other reason.
- 5) Can we revisit a partnership with Community Transit and the idea of ORCA cards?
- 6) A student led proposal was creating a 7 period schedule and give students a choice of going to school 1-6, or 2-7. The students who go 2-7 get on the middle school bus runs?

Set agenda for next meeting

The agenda for next meeting is to have staff report back on the ramifications and possibilities of the most recent proposals/suggestions. Given that the next meeting is the second to last meeting, we also will need to decide what proposals, if any, should be forwarded to the school board and district staff to push out to the greater Edmonds School District Community for feedback and input.