

November 16, 2020

Bell Times Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Remote Meeting

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

16 members attended

Welcome and Introductions

Assistant Superintendent, Monty Sabin welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Purpose and Leading with Equity

Monty Sabin shared online meeting norms. He shared the purpose of the advisory committee was to determine if changing to a later start time for the high schools is feasible for the district and beneficial for our students.

He also asked the group to assess all options through an equity lens and to ask the following questions about the proposals: How does this issue connect with our strategic plan and the goals of the district? Will this decision ignore/worsen existing disparities or produce unintended consequences? If so, how? Finally, does this proposal support the message of inclusion? He referred the group to the district's Equity Resolution and EL-11 Policy, Race and Equity for guidance.

District Activities

Kevin Reimer, Director of Athletics, Activities, and the Arts shared considerations regarding the impacts of a later start time for high school athletics and activities and an earlier start time at the middle school level.

What to Consider.

1. Would students have to miss more class time?
2. What are the benefits?
3. Would drivers be available?
4. How would this impact middle school?
5. Would game times need to be adjusted?
6. Practice times need adjusting

Issue Number 1 - Would students have to miss more class time?

The goal is to usually to arrive about 1 hour in advance to most games/events. Starting times vary from sport to sport and level to level. Example - Often JV or C team games start earlier

In general we start picking up HS teams 1:45 (if we need to beat the gen ed. Buses out of the parking lot) at the earliest then most 2:30- 3:00 so right after the current school day and the later sports 3:30

Here is a list of sports and the most common pick up times for games

Fall: Sports:

Boys Tennis 2:30-3:00ish

Cross Country 2:15 and often times they already leave at between 1:00-2:00

Girls Soccer 3:00 - 3:30

Girls Swimming 1:45 – 2:15

Volleyball 3:30

Football Varsity 3:30-5:00 Friday, however Monday JV and C team games 2:15-3:00

Winter

Boys/Girls Basketball 3:30-4:00

Girls Bowling 2:15 (even for practice as bowling venue availability)

Gymnastics Not a problem except for league, district and state when they already may miss.

Wrestling 3:30 – 4:00

Boys Swimming 1:45 – 2:15

Spring

Track 2:30 - 3:00

Baseball 2:30 - 3:00

Fastpitch 2:30 - 3:00

Golf 2:30 - 3:00

Boys Soccer 3:15 - 3:30

Girls tennis 2:30 – 3:00

Conclusion – unless start time for games are moved then we would have to get out of school early more often than in the past.

Issue 2 – Benefits

1. Studies have shown fewer injuries when students get more than 8 hours of sleep.
2. And better athletic performance

Issue 3 - Would drivers be available? [Maddux, Deanna] This one that I can not give an exact answer too. It would be more difficult because we could not do the drop and return option because the drivers would already be driving elementary routes. I think it is safe to say we would have less drivers available.

When drivers aren't available, we turn to other bus companies - Like First Student, Durham, or private charter companies. These usually cost about twice as much

Issue 4 - How would this impact middle school [Maddux, Deanna] We would be pushing middle schools a few min later on the bell time we purposed, the loss of daylight is always a factor for your MS trips, but for drivers I don't think so. If they wanted to look at the other bell times where it was ES, MS then HS then yes, it would be impactful to both sports groups. MS, would have to wait until the HS routes cleared up and Most MS and HS trips could not depart until after 5:00pm. This would also conflict with field/facility use in our district.

Other notes:

1. Last year we started to have a shortage of drivers...last spring we had been told that all trips were going to have to early before school got out or wait until 4:30 when the routes were finished.
2. If times change then we would need to hope that game times could change for some sports.
3. It could open up for before school practice times. Question does that defeat the purpose of a late bell schedule.
4. If games had to start later then return time is later especially from longer trips
5. If practices starts later do we cut practice time or do we extend later especially during seasons that share gyms.

Questions and comments from the committee followed:

- If earlier busses to athletic events would cause students to miss two classes, it may be difficult for students to stay on track especially if they get home later from games and assignments are due the next day.
- Bowling Alleys may not be available for at later times because they are used by private leagues. Students are able to use at the early time because the facilities are not typically used during that time.
- Would bus drivers be available to transport student athletes at the later time?
 - It would be more difficult to schedule trips – shortage of drivers.
- If busses aren't available and parents need to transport students to events it that an equity issue?
 - If district busses aren't available the district will try to use other bus services such as First Student.

- Would a later start time impact students traveling to games on I-5 with the traffic issues in the later afternoon?
 - Depends on where the games are located. In the South Sound Conference, fewer games will be held north. More games are held locally.
- What about other activities? Fine Arts?
 - Marching Band would probably be the most impacted based on field availability. There shouldn't be any change for evening plays or concerts.

Food and Nutrition

Alicia Neal, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, shared information regarding the impacts of revised start times on student meal services.

- **Change in Meal Service Times:**
 - Breakfast is usually served 20 – 30 minutes prior to the bell
 - Coordinate with transportation to allow adequate time to eat, but not too early because of supervision issue.
 - Supervision in the AM for early arrivals?
 - Playground use before school?
 - Lunches are scheduled at the building level and vary from school to school
- **Shift staffing to support changes to meal periods**
- **May see more need for after school snacks at Elementary Childcare**

Study 1	HS at 8:40 to 3:10 BREAKFAST
Elementary #1	7:15am to 1:45pm (6:55am - 7:15am)
Tag Program	7:15am to 12:45pm (6:55am - 7:15am)
Elementary #2	8:00am to 2:30pm (7:40am - 8:00am)
High School	8:40am to 3:10pm (8:10am - 8:40am)
Envisions HS	8:50am to 2:50pm (8:30am - 8:50am)
Middle School	9:30am to 4:00 pm (9:10am - 9:30am)
Aspire	9:00am to 3:30pm (8:40am - 9:00am)
Driver times would be between 6-8 hours a day- better retention	
All Preschools on the same bell time	

Meal Participation 2019-20	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	District Wide
Breakfast	1,253 (16%)	549 (15%)	391 (9%)	2,193 (14%)
Lunch	4,052 (53%)	1,767 (49%)	1,566 (36%)	7,385 (47%)

Discussion followed:

- Would there be an option for middle school students to be served breakfast in the classroom?
 - Students would need to come through a Point of Sale line for pick-up, but students could get to go meals to take to the classroom to eat.
- With the early elementary start time, when would lunch be served?
 - Lunch times are driven by the building schedule, but could begin serving as early as 10:30 am, which is currently done for the high school students on first lunch.

Survey Review

Monty Sabin shared the draft survey with the committee for discussion.

Discussion followed:

- Committee members appreciated that the survey was short, but felt it shouldn't list the cost implications without including additional information.
- Others felt it was important to share the costs associated with the choice of later start time
- Might be easier to view option A and B side by side together rather than individually
- Could the survey link to the research materials?
- Timing of survey?
- Budget concerns
- Could the survey be structured to include impacts to families?
- It would be helpful to survey high school students - Include questions about how many are working or providing childcare for younger siblings – now and before COVID.

Future Topics / Meeting Schedule

Monty Sabin shared that future topics would include:

- Revised Survey
- Academic Research

Future Meetings are scheduled for:

- December 14th
- January 18th
- February 23rd – Board Meeting

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.