

School Start Time Committee  
Council Chambers  
May 15, 2017  
10:00 a.m.

|          |                       |             |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Present: | J. Erardi             | K. Joyce    |
|          | E. Aho                | M. Ku       |
|          | A. Colangelo (absent) | M. Memoli   |
|          | D. Cruson             | D. Roach    |
|          | J. Davila             | L. Rodrigue |
|          | R. Dufour             | J. Vouros   |
|          | T. Einhorn            | H. Werner   |
|          | J. Fonovic            | 4 Public    |
|          | T. Harrison           | 5 Staff     |
|          |                       | 1 Press     |

Those attending the meeting were Charlotte Branchflower, middle school student, Sister Colleen, Principal of St. Rose School, and Newtown principals Chris Moretti, Chris Geissler, Barbara Gasparine, Tim Napolitano, and Anne Uberti.

Dr. Erardi spoke about the Board presentation. Research will be discussed first, next will be student voices including activities, and the last group would discuss transportation. He requested the chair of each group to prepare the PowerPoint slides with a copy to the committee and Joanne Morris. The dry run will be May 30 with final thoughts. At the close of the May 22 meeting we need to be clear on what we will endorse as a group. Slides to Joanne by May 28.

Mrs. Davila spoke about Dr. Kanaan's presentation at the community forum. There were conversations on student health along with questions about how to limit device connectivity. High School students spoke about the importance of the arts magnet school. A parent asked about how the hours for TAP would be affected with the high school starting later. Each committee gave a summary of their work and the results of the high school and middle school surveys were shared.

Mrs. Werner said she had spoken to some parents who were happy about the later start time and would want to implement the change this fall.

Dr. Erardi began a discussion about Option 5 which was the committee's choice. Mrs. Davila spoke about the research subcommittee's preparation of the parent survey. Dr. Erardi asked for input from the high school, middle school and Reed school administration. Option 5 is built on a decrease of 10 minutes at the middle school and high school and a decrease of 12 minutes at the Reed school. Dr. Rodrigue said the high school has a 10 minute advisory each morning which can be changed to an extended advisory one day per week for 20 minutes. That gives us two more hours per year.

Mr. Einhorn said there is a lot of support from staff for the 8:00 a.m. start time. Regarding losing 10 minutes, we looked at safeguarding class time and feel comfortable that this model will work.

Mrs. Uberti stated that Reed ended up with additional minutes so we have extra time during the day. We have homeroom for 25 minutes so we can recapture time from that. The impact to instructional time would be minimal.

Dr. Erardi asked if it was possible to move St. Rose to tier 1.

Mr. Dufour said there are some Reed buses that are shared with St. Rose. He would have to look at that possibility.

Sister Colleen said St. Rose has nine buses with two being shared. The time change will not work because there is a 9:00 mass each day and the school is used for religious education until the end of the day. They wouldn't be able to have afterschool activities. Also, the preschool doesn't arrive at the same time that the buses arrive. She would like 20 minutes to have traffic cleared before the preschool students come in. St. Rose School has seven hours of classroom instruction per day.

Mrs. Uberti asked about the Reed buses.

Mr. Dufour stated that with this option the Reed and elementary students will ride together. Reed students will be dropped off first and then the buses will go to the elementary schools.

Dr. Erardi asked for the committee's opinion on Option 5.

Mr. Cruson and Mr. Vouros were in favor of the 8:00 start time.

Mrs. Ku Michelle understood that the time can be absorbed but was conflicted about losing curriculum time to make this work. She asked if there was a way to add 10 minutes at the end of the day.

Mr. Dufour said we will be sharing buses with reed and the elementary schools so that wasn't possible.

Dr. Rodrigue said we aren't losing instructional time because we would be having the advisory at the end of the week capturing two more hours.

Mr. Einhorn proposed Option 4A to allow time for students to go to lockers and travel through the building. A 7:55 start time would give them that cushion.

Mrs. Ku felt that the Reed homeroom time was important.

Mrs. Uberti said that if we took 10 minutes out of homeroom time they would still have 15 minutes. They are also looking at doing other things in our specials which will increase our instructional time.

Dr. Erardi asked how the magnet school student schedule would change and if they would be losing 30 minutes of instructional time.

Dr. Rodrigue said they still have to leave at the same time and will lose those 30 minutes.

Mr. Napolitano felt that the extra busing was a concern as well as older and younger children riding together.

Mr. Moretti was concerned if a bus was late and also we need to look at the delayed opening times.

Mr. Dufour said that the majority of the buses will be with elementary students. The delayed opening may just be for an hour.

Mr. Moretti said that PD should also be reviewed as it's for two hours.

Dr. Erardi summarized that this option has been endorsed by Reed, the middle school and the high school. There is elementary school concern around the shuttle. We need to talk through the two-hour delayed opening for PD.

Mr. Harrison said that this is a drastic change for the Reed staff as they are concerned about the end of day time. High school staff was okay with this option.

Mrs. Ku said the Board of Education will want to know other options considered.

Mr. Moretti stated that if there was ever an incident between a Reed and an elementary student we would need to have a system in place about talking with these children.

Mr. Vouros was concerned about having the 10 minutes in the survey. He would like the schedule change made this fall.

Mr. Roach and Dr. Rodrigue agreed to have this change for next year.

Dr. Erardi asked for five slides from each subcommittee with a three to five minute presentation. He will meet with the union leadership before the next meeting. The business office will meet regarding costs.

Mr. Geissler was concerned about Middle Gate buses dropping students at Reed as well as afterschool activities.

Dr. Erardi said we would inform everyone involved in running afterschool activities.

Mr. Memoli stated that the athletes preferred the change to begin this year.

Mrs. Joyce felt the largest voice would be from elementary parents regarding their children riding with Reed students.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Kathy June