



West Chester Area School District

OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS
TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL BEST



School Start Time Task Force

November 11, 2019

School Board Education Committee Meeting

- **Structure of the four committees**
- **Community/Parent Feedback**
- **Summary of Committee work**



Timeline

April 29, 2019 - Kick off meeting with community and staff

July 25, 2019 - First Committee meeting

August 21, 2019 - Second Committee meeting

September 12, 2019 - Wendy Troxel visited high schools and community meeting was held

September 18, 2019 - Community Update on Progress

October 3 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet

October 23 - cancelled due to conflicts

November 11 - Update to Board Education Committee

November 20 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet

December 4 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet

January 8, 2020 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet

February, 2020 - Administration prepares final report

Monday, March 9, 2020 - final report presented to Board Education Committee

Monday, March 23 (tentative), 2020 - presentation to school board



Districts that have changed find teens *are sleeping more*



Teens get more sleep and more "overnight therapy" sleep



Absenteeism reduced by 25% and graduation rates go up



Standardized test scores in math and reading go up by 2 to 3 percentage points



Students and families are happier and less stressed



Car crash rates go down



Potential economic benefits



Current Schedule

Schools	School Day
EHS, HHS, RHS, FMS	7:30 am – 2:15 pm
PMS, SMS	8:05 am – 2:50 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWS, WTE	9:10 am – 3:40 pm



Possible options/scenarios

Option 1

Schools	School Day
SMS, PMS	8:05 am -2:50 pm
EHS, HHS, RHS, FMS	8:30 am – 3:15 pm
ALL ES	9:10 am -3:40 pm

Option 2

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:15 am – 2:55 pm
EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE	8:40 am – 3:10 pm
FHE, HDE, MCH, PWE, SWS, WTE	9:10 am -3:40 pm

Option 3

Schools	School Day
ALL HS/MS	8:30 am – 3:15 pm
ALL ES	9:10 am -3:40 pm



Community/Parent Feedback April-October 2019

- **33 comments: 11 suggestions, comments, considerations, 10 in favor, 12 don't want time changed.**
- **Suggestions to consider:**
 - **include traffic impact study**
 - **effect on bus drivers**
 - **start all secondary at same time**
 - **book to read, "Why we Sleep"**
 - **sports/activity impact**



Community/Parent Feedback April-October 2019

- send another survey to see what students/families prefer**
- Impact on game scheduling with surrounding districts and practicing times esp. during winter**
- Childcare needs**
- When would students needing extra help meet with teachers**
- Will students actually get more sleep**



Community/Parent Feedback April-October 2019

- **Impact on families with students in elementary school and their activities (logistics)**
- **Is it possible to shift ES to an earlier start time.**



Findings

Impact on Students

- **If we maintain the current schedule** - students remain tired

- **If we choose option 1:**

- Students at SMS and FMS will not benefit from additional rest.
- HS students may have busier roads to navigate, but they will be driving after more rest.
- Commuters may adjust their times to avoid buses and HS drivers.
- HS students would report later for jobs, activities
- There could be an impact on clubs. Are teacher volunteers willing to stay beyond the contract day?
- Four ES would start later; students may spend more time in day care.

- **If we choose option 2:**

- All secondary students would benefit from additional rest.
- HS students would report later for jobs, activities, and therapy times, but not as late as option 1 and 3.
- Does an 8:15 start make as much of an impact as an 8:30 start?
- There would be no impact to elementary schools.

- **If we choose option 3:**

- All students would benefit from additional rest.
- Four ES would start later; students may spend more time in day care.



Findings

Impact on Parents

- **If we maintain the current schedule** – parents maintain current schedules
- **If we choose any other option:**
 - Parents need to consider childcare arrangements and expenses for childcare
 - Before school care may need to be added at middle school
 - Consider tax implications vs. student benefits – How much will taxes go up?
 - Parents need to consider transportation implications to coordinate family and work commitments (e.g. student driving, parents drop off, etc.)
 - Consideration should be given to look for ways to offset costs
 - The need for two hour delays may be reduced.



Findings

Impact on Staff

- **If we maintain the current schedule** – no staffing schedule changes are required
- **If we choose any other option:**
 - Staff may need to consider childcare arrangements and expenses for childcare.
 - May impact commute to and from school due to different traffic patterns.
 - May impact staff being available to run after school clubs.
 - Teacher contractual day may need to be adjusted to cover various times when students arrive to school.
 - Custodial schedules may need to be altered.
 - Consider sending another staff survey if a start time schedule is changed to address particulars.



Findings

Impact on Transportation

- **Moving the bell time and changing the current 4 tiered approach to a 3 tiered approach will require additional vehicles and drivers:**
 - **Option 1 – \$4,152,432** - 56 Additional Buses/Drivers for regular education and 14 for special education. Also requires 2 additional Special Education Aides
 - Tax implication per avg. homeowner - \$99 (2.4%)
 - **Option 2 - \$4,521,00** – 61 additional busses/drivers for regular education and 14 for special education. Also requires 5 special education aides.
 - Tax implication per avg. homeowner - \$107 (2.6%)
 - **Option 3 - \$6,867,000** – 99 additional buses/drivers for regular education and 18 for special education. Also requires an additional 3 special education aides.
 - Tax implication per avg. homeowner - \$163 (3.8%)
- Sample bus runs during new times found routes to be one to seven minutes longer – This could lead to slightly longer bus runs.
- Facility Use rental could be negatively impacted with change in ending school times.
- Revisions to current transportation contracts may need to take place to attract drivers.
- ***Committee will run costs on several scenarios with variations of times. – November 20 committee meeting***



Next Steps

Wednesday, November 20 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet - review final transportation findings

Wednesday, December 4 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet - review draft of report

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - 6:30 p.m. - Committees meet - finalize report

February, 2020 - Administration prepares final report and recommendations

Monday, March 9, 2020 - final report presented to Board Education Committee

Monday, March 23, 2020 - presentation to school board