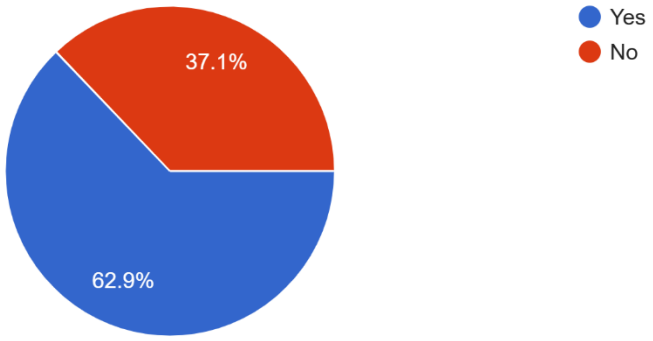
Memorandum

To: Albert Ganem, Interim Superintendent of Schools
From: John Campbell, Principal, Berlin Memorial School
Date: 12/9/2024
Re: Results from Bus Route Survey

As part of the discussion around reorganizing afternoon bus routes from Berlin Memorial we sent out a two question survey to the school community. The first question was the following:

Would you be in favor of "flipping" the afternoon bus routes so that riding time is equaled out?
70 responses



As you can see, just under two-thirds of the individuals who responded were in favor of the change.

The second question simply asked for comments. I have broken those into two sections – comments from those who favor the change, and then from those who oppose it.

Comments from individuals in favor:

- As the parent of a child who is the first one on the bus and the last one off, I am absolutely in favor of this change. 1.5-2 hours on the bus everyday is too long and not fair. Thank you for your consideration.
- as others have stated, being first on in the morning and last off in the afternoon and extend your day by 2 hours. that is too much for children to have to deal with.

The mission of Berlin Memorial School is to empower each student to achieve personal excellence by fostering respect, responsibility, and resourcefulness with the support of the entire community.

- My children are the first pick up and last drop off which has been extremely inconvenient for them especially as kindergarteners adjusting to school. A reversal would be immensely beneficial.
- We've been a family that has been first on and last off for 8 years. It's time for a change. 2 hours a day is not fair or reasonable.
- Yes, if children are picked up first in the morning they should be dropped off first in the afternoon. I feel the fact that my children live less than 2 miles from BMS and have to leave the house at 7:35 and have a 40+ minute bus ride both ways is excess. Any way we could shorten the drive time and duration on a bus is a must for these young children.
- If they change these times for Berlin Memorial then they should flip the routes for Tahanto too. My kids get on first in the am and off last in the pm on Bus 3. They get picked up at 6:30am for a 7:15 drop off and then they get dropped off at 3:10 pm when they get on the bus at 2:20.
- My kids are hugely impacted by this and would be in favor of the plan. I have been suggesting this for years!
- I have zero opinion on whether the routes are flipped. My only concern is consistency with the drop off time due to work schedules
- Yes complete agree. My son rides Bus 1
- We love Miss Nancy on bus 2 and as long as she is driving, I trust her!
- Please make this change the default for the routes every year so we don't have to keep doing this!

Comments from individuals opposed:

- we rely on this current scheduling for many reasons
- We are currently the second stop in the morning and the second stop in the Afternoon. At this point, our routines for morning and afternoon are established. I wouldn't want to change the route.
- No reason to change this during the school year.
- A change mid year is not acceptable to ask families to adjust schedules
- People have schedules based off the bus times sent out at the beginning of the year. Flipping the schedule would make people late.
- I entrust the professionals at NRT to schedule and coordinate the bus routes in the best logistical manner. I do not believe parents or the school committee should influence their route planning.
- I have a child that is first on / last off and has adapted fine to the duration (for our situation it is eventually equalized with shorter bus time when they take the Tahanto bus). Also, this change in time in the afternoon will impact our after school care plan and work hours for one parent who will need to be home earlier. Making this change now, mid-year, with less than 1 month notice may be challenging.
- I acknowledge that my child's ride is on the shorter end, so I'm biased. We live closer to the school and that is why our ride is shorter. Seems like the district will end up paying more for gas and driver time to even out a schedule that is already based on logic.
- This change will be very difficult for me. I''m not in favor.

- If they're going to change the bus routes they should do the work to optimize the routes themselves. My child at Tahanto and my child at BMS are on two separate bus routes. My BMS child and the BMS child across the street are also on different bus routes. I'm in favor of more equitable times, but why not make them all more efficient be effectively routing the busses rather than change drop off times? In addition, with the new drop off time, I would not be able to pick up my older child from her extra curricular activities at Tahanto.
- In general I support the flipping of the routes, but the schedules need to be corrected. Why is the loading time at school accounted for in current PM schedule of bus 2 & 3 but not accounted for in the proposed schedule? Also, if we are making changes to the route, other requests need to be implemented. There is no reason to have children board the bus at a very complicated intersection at the 'RIVER & TYLER' stop when there is an actual bus stop just on the other side of the roundabout. Also, why is this being rushed? There should be a solid discussion and plan before putting this up to the school commitee to vote. Please consider investing more time in getting a wider support for the change.
- Our child would prefer to stay with the limited time on the bus.
- This change would impact greatly my ability to get my older daughter from Tahanto. I really hope no changes occur to Bus 1.
- I like the concept of equalizing the bus times, but I think it's hard to do in the middle of the school year with routines already set. I'd like to see the school and the bus company work more closely over the summer to redesign the bus routes in totality. From an outsiders perspective, it appears that the bus company delivers the routes with little input from the school or town. Not that the school can impact this, but it would be nice if our roads were safer to walk on so students could walk/ride their bikes and alleviate some of the bus congestion. We could also allow parents to opt out of the bus service so NRT knows ahead of time which stops will never get used and potentially reduce the route length.