

Tomball ISD - School Start Time Committee Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Dr. Steven Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer, opened the meeting at 9 am at the TISD Staff Development Center. Dr. Gutierrez thanked everyone for attending and supporting the district with their participation on this committee. Dr. Gutierrez reminded everyone that their feedback from their campus administrators will be discussed first. Lauren Thompson mentioned that the administrators had already met to discuss feedback.

Recommendations were that the secondary campuses (junior and senior high schools) need to stay timed as they are now for extracurricular purposes. It was also requested that the current bus transfers at GOES and GLJH be ended. Teresa Sullivan mentioned that bus times are running much better.

Lauren asked that this proposal information be communicated to the district as soon as possible, and before the transfer window, for staff decision-making.

Dr. Gutierrez introduced Danielle Fair, Special Projects Manager for Transportation, who presented Bell Time Options. [Transportation Presentation 01.18.22.pdf](#)

Start times were questioned and it was confirmed that the first time shown in the presentation tiers is the tardy bell time, not operational start time. Lengthy discussion of operational and instructional minutes followed.

Danielle offered the pros and cons for Transportation for both options. Lauren Thompson questioned the need to add minutes to the elementary schedule. It would be difficult to explain to parents why an additional block of time would be needed. Sandy Dillman noted that the driver shortage continues even though there has been great effort to recruit and retain staff. There are ongoing discussions to continue to look at creative options for staffing.

Sandy noted that Option 2 is preferred by Transportation. Elementary principals stated again that this would be difficult to manage with parents wanting to take students out of school early for after school activities. There was also lengthy discussion of how the TSA/LSC schedule affects the rest of the district's bell times.

Dr. Gutierrez asked if there was a committee preference for Option 1 or 2. Kim McKinney asked if Option 1, tier one and two could be shifted 10 minutes earlier for

arrival and dismissal. Lengthy discussion among the committee members followed and several options were offered.

Dr. Gutierrez noted that most discussion centers around Option 2 based on all the small group discussions. He asked for feedback from the other administrators and some teachers at campuses. He asked that everyone be reminded that this is draft information and not for the general public at this time. A question was asked about whether staff shuttles will continue with the tiered bell schedule. There has to be consideration for the shuttle; however, we must be very careful about creating things that benefit employees that are not available to other stakeholders. A list of current routes that already exist for staff shuttles was requested.

The next scheduled meeting is in one week and Dr. Gutierrez asked if committee members would prefer to meet in person or if the information can be shared by email. It was decided that next week's meeting will be cancelled and the February 4 meeting will be our last committee meeting. Lauren Thompson and Kim McKinney volunteered to present to the Board in February if needed.

Dr. Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 10:36 am.