

Start Time Task Force

Meeting Agenda

December 1, 2022

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Time	Topic - Responsibility	Description / Materials / Notes - Notes on discussion including focus questions and any materials needed.
<p>10 Min 4:00 – 4:10</p>	<p>Welcome and Agenda Overview - Spencer</p>	<p><i>Centering the conversation on the scope of work. We are not debating whether to change high school start times, we have been tasked to determine how it can happen. Need to have the recommendation to Dr. Jon Holmen and the Board of Directors by the end of January. If we cannot come to a consensus, we may not meet that deadline. High School students start time after 8am and pre-school start time earlier, making the end time earlier. The scope has crept a bit by adding in Middle Schools, but this is outside of the scope for our purposes.</i></p>
<p>15 Min 4:10-4:25</p>	<p>Review of Where We Are, Where We Want to Be, and What Happens if We Can't Get There – Scott and Spencer</p>	<p><i>Principles we need to look at include Operational and Financial Feasibility, What is best for all of our students, and equitable for all of our families and students.</i></p> <p><i>We have determined transportation constraints, this is the area that seems to be driving the scenarios we have looked at so far. Transportation is a nationwide concern, because there are financial and logistics constraints (number of busses and drivers). This determines the number of routes we can handle. There are federal guidelines regarding our students receiving special education services. We have discussed smaller tiers to get more flexibility, this includes elimination of a full tier to compress the start time window. Bellevue outsourced their high schools, which has all high school students relying on self-transportation or public transportation. Currently, we do not have the metro infrastructure to allow for this in our school district.</i></p> <p><i>Due to lack of drivers, we are already cancelling quite a few routes on a regular basis. This will cause issues when considering adding more busses and routes to the schedule. Route cancellations impact attendance at least in our short term data (up to 53% in some areas). We have to follow the WAC in regards to transportation. Based on this, we can look at expanding our walk radius, since OPSI gives a maximum of a two-mile radius for students walking to school. Students with Special Education Services is required, it is not flexible. The largest tier for busses is elementary school, 60+ routes. The state funds just over 80% of the school transportation, the rest comes out of the Levy budget, so additions in terms of cost are likely to have an impact on district budget, meaning those dollars will need to come from some other project or program.</i></p> <p><i>The other variables include Length of the student day – we are mandated to have 1027 hours of schooling; the preference is not to change our current hours, which is 1040. We could potentially add time to the school day, and that will effect our collective bargaining with staff members and add cost. We can change the model by outsourcing transportation, also costly, (Metro, outside provider, McKenny Vento) or change the service by having more walkers and drivers, creating less ridership on the buses that creates additional flexibility in the time window needed to make multiple runs work. Children with special needs have a better experience when using our own bus service, and we have been attempting to reduce our dependence on some of the contractors with varying degrees of success.</i></p> <p><i>The hope for this evening is to come up with a compromise agreement on a solution or two that we can move forward to the community for input on impacts, so we make the most informed recommendation we can. Any change will have a major impact on potentially all of our schools and families. We are not the decision makers though, we are only providing information to help them (Dr. Holmen and the Board of Directors) to make an informed decision.</i></p>

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		<p><i>Committee member pointed out that the lower absence also included the children out sick and there were quite a few sick that week.</i></p> <p><i>Spencer discussed the desire to arrive at an agreement that we can take to the community for feedback and deliver to Dr. Holmen and the Board of Directors. The best option is to come to an agreement on two proposals to take to the community. No solution is going to be perfect; every solution has positive points and drawbacks, realizing that some of those drawbacks can either be resolved, or adjusted to over time. This happens in every organizational change. The key is to come up with a working solution and move towards making it better. We will hear from the consultant, Dawn, and transportation to discuss issues addressed in the last meeting regarding plans B and E.</i></p>
<p>15 Min 4:25-4:40</p>	<p>Presentation of Adjustments Requested at Previous Meeting and Their Impacts – Barbara/Dana/Dawn</p>	<p>We did an update to the presentations (B & E) and will present on Teams. Discussion on the slide for Scenario B(2) – This is based on the schedule provided by a group – they requested to adjust Pre-K into Elementary bells and to make sure STEM and ICS programs were aligned to their appropriate grade levels. This will require 108 buses and runs. The number may be able to be reduced once we develop certain efficiencies as the routes are managed, which we call optimization. This moved ICS to Middle School start time; STEM is now with High School start times. We know that no solution is going to be perfect, so we need to get as close to that as we can given the constraints under which we operate. All pre-schoolers will start with the host elementary schools which was one of the major issue with option B and a safety concern when preschool would start considerably earlier than the schools in which they are hosted or create an impact that would be hard to mitigate creating staffing coverage issues.</p> <p>The next change requested and discussed was to Scenario E(2) – ICS/STEM start with their regular schools to match high school start times. Adjusted Tier 1 and Tier 2 to start 10 minutes later to help get the elementary start a few minutes later. Pre-K remains a 7-hour elapsed day with two different start times (group A and group B) starting with their appropriate elementary schools. Should have the buses total 109 before any efficiencies that may be created through route optimization.</p> <p>Question: Is there a possibility of only sending out one option?</p> <p>Two options gives the community the ability to see more possibilities. If we only give one option there isn't a basis for comparison to understand fully the impacts and community feeling around the proposed changes. The preference would be to have two options out for community input.</p> <p>In the first round we need to come to consensus with two scenarios; when we go into the second round we can see if we can reach strong consensus on one or the other.</p> <p>Question: Can we get a little more information on why middle school ending late potentially causes problems with activities and athletics?</p> <p>This pushes us into the dark hours causing more issues with the sporting programs; Middle Schools do not have the luxury of lighting on their sports fields. In the Middle Schools, teachers are the coaches. 3:20pm is really the latest that we can end High School and coordinate events with the schools of our conference. There are athletes that may miss an hour of school every day, like swimmers and golfers. Teachers that are coaches will require coverage for these afternoon games.</p>

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		<p>Question: Is there a threshold or limit of reasonableness that will require additional funding by adding more routes that just is a non-starter?</p> <p>Yes an no. We have some capacity with our existing bus fleet, and we maintain a pool of extra buses to swap into service for maintenance issues or other unforeseen issues. As long as we don't go over a total of 135 busses we are doing ok, including the swaps; however, bus drivers are a concern since we will have to add drivers to our budget. We may already have the busses, but the costs of running them including drivers is the bigger issue. We have 98 drivers currently. All the scenarios increase the number of our drivers. We do have a little bit of capacity with the number of buses; but not all the buses are not the same size – most of our spare busses are special ed busses, not general education busses. We realize from an operational standpoint, there really isn't a way to maintain the current level of service and change start times without some fiscal impact. The scenarios presented are all within the realm of possibility, and at the same time, our ability to sustain service from an operational and financial standpoint is one of our guiding principles. Any change is going to cause some impact that we as a district staff will have to work through, which is also part of the reason for the recommendation needing to come in January to give time for the district to do that.</p>
<p>20 Min 4:40-5:00</p>	<p>First Round of Discussion on current proposals – Small Groups</p>	
<p>5 Min 5:00-5:05</p>	<p>Break</p>	
<p>30 Min 5:05-5:35</p>	<p>First Round Discussion – Whole Group Debrief</p>	<p>Group 2 – want to eliminate E2 due to athletics; selected B2 and B2+10 minutes. Our group would like to have input into communications that go out into the community.</p> <p>Group 1 – We can support B2; There are some supporters for E2, but still very challenging. Some of the elementary schools will change start times with B2.</p> <p>Group 3 – Hard to support E2 since the concerns with E were not fully corrected. Did not come to a consensus on a supported scenario.</p> <p>Group 4 – We did not come to a consensus since we did not hear from all members of the group; but we feel that E & E2 were more aligned with the goals of this committee; this was based on the natural progression from elementary through High School, including Middle School (i.e. elementary starting first, Middle School second, and High School third). Member stated we feel we are missing some information regarding athletics. E2 time sequence works very well; but we need further information to help make athletics work in this scenario.</p> <p>Spencer asked Director of Athletics to discuss the concerns with Athletics. <i>We are talking about competitions as well as practices; we also have facility issues as well. Swimming is a concern because of the number of schools needing the pools; RHS swim practice starts at 3pm and must be done by 4:15pm, then EHS arrives. JHS has practice at 3pm with LWHS starting at 4:30. Both pools don't make money with the schools using these pools, since they are not owned by the schools. Golf courses are the same way, especially with daylight being an issue. Tennis is the same way with daylight hours. Basketball will not be an issue since these games are in the evening.</i></p>

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		<p><i>The latest start time high school (Woodinville) in the conference currently dismisses at 3:20pm, which has already been an issue.</i></p> <p><i>Charter buses, if used, cost \$1,500 per bus, and has significant impact on ASB budgets.</i></p> <p><i>Spencer asked to go into groups again to come to consensus as a group.</i></p>
25 Min 5:35-6:00	Second Round of Discussion on proposals – Small Groups	
5 Min 6:00-6:05	Break	
30 Min 6:05-6:35	Second Round Discussion – Whole Group Debrief	
15 Min 6:35–6:50	Testing for Consensus	<p>Group 3 – Agree with Scenario B2</p> <p>Group 4 – We are split – We want to make E2 work; B2 is our second option but only one third like B2, 2/3 can't live with it. We are very close with E2 if there is any way we can make it work; it has the greatest benefits for high school. The group can support B2 if that is the consensus of the whole committee.</p> <p>Question: If we moved E2 back 20 minutes to get high school dismissal earlier, what is the result?</p> <p>Elementary would start at 7:20am with a drop off of 7:10am. Early pickup would be as early as 6:30am.</p>
5 Min 6:50-6:55	Review of where we stand and next steps - Scott	<p>There will always be struggle, and as we move through the process it will get better. We need to ensure that the options we choose are thoughtful and consider the various perspectives of this committee as we represent the interests of the broader community in this process. The process has to be something we can all speak to as fair and thorough. It looks like the committee wants to put B2 forward as the committee's recommendation. There is some reluctance with B2, but we knew this would be a compromise, since there is no easy solutions. Scott will discuss the one or two scenarios with Jon and communicate back to the committee.</p> <p><i>After the meeting it was suggested we do an anonymous poll to gauge the level of consensus around both E2 and B2. That was done after meeting with Dr. Holmen. There was near unanimous support to put both forward for stakeholder input, even though one had a much stronger level of consensus than the other.</i></p> <p>Barbara and Dana were asked about costs and how that would affect the decisions of the Superintendent and the Board. There were no scenarios that do not add routes and costs. All scenarios are within the realm of possible from a budgetary standpoint, although any additional cost will have impact. We will also submit for state funding as we do each year, and that may generate additional funds.</p>
5 Min 6:55–7:00	Closure and Session Reflection – Spencer and Task Force	<p><i>Spencer suggested that if there are any concerns about the process, please email Spencer to discuss criticisms and concerns if necessary. The goal is to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. Thank you all for your participation; we did really good work today and appreciate the efforts to move towards consensus. Scott will send out information on next steps and next meetings.</i></p>

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Next Meeting Items:

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Future Meeting Dates:

- December 15
- January 12

Start Time Committee

December 1, 2022

Scope of Work

High School Start
Time \geq 8:00 AM

Preschool Start
Time Earlier

Committee's Guiding Principles – *Work In Progress*

- ✓ Operational and Financial Feasibility
- ✓ Best for Students
- ✓ Equity

Transportation Constraints

- Total Routes = Largest Tier + Special Education Routes
 - 37 routes for Special Education – constant
 - Largest Tier – variable
- Can we make tiers smaller to get more flexibility in start times?
 - Yes – by increasing the walking radius (10 routes)
- Can we eliminate a whole tier to compress the start time window?
 - Add dramatically more busses?
 - Stop transporting a whole level of students?
- Does limiting service have an impact? (cancelling routes)

Do route cancellations impact attendance?

REDMOND MS, BARTON EL, EINSTIEN EL & ROCKWELL EL	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	7-Nov
Routes 332 & 359	32	29	38	37	49
+44% Change in Absences					

EASTLAKE HS, REDMOND HS, INGLEWOOD MS, EVERGREEN MS, ALCOTT EL, BAKER EL, MCAULIFFE EL & MEAD EL	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov
Routes 328, 343, 356, & 364	105	101	107	100	112
+8% Change in Absences					

EVERGREEN MS, ROSE HILL MS, KIRKLAND MS, BELL EL, DICKINSON EL & KIRK EL	3-Nov	4-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov	9-Nov
Routes 319 & 336	25	26	30	21	39
+53% Change in Absences					

EASTLAKE HS, INGELWOOD MS, REDMOND MS, ALCOTT EL, EINSTEIN EL, MEAD EL & RUSH EL	4-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov	9-Nov	10-Nov
Routes 318 & 354	39	40	26	35	46
+31% Change in Absences					

Set Times – Build Around That

- Transport some students based on equity?
 - WAC: Local board policy determines who is transported
 - OSPI: Funding policy is based on geographical model
 - Maximum 2-mile radius
 - Loss of funding = prohibitive impact
- Students with Special Education services
 - 37 routes remains constant
 - Federal requirement
- Routes dictated by who we transport based on above
 - 60+ routes in any given tier

What about the other variables?

- ~~Tier and Routes~~
- ~~School Start and End Times~~
- Length of Student Day
 - 1027-hour constraint
 - Collectively bargained
- Changing Model
 - Outsource (Metro, outside provider?)
 - Service change (more walkers / drivers and less riders)

Is perfect the enemy of good?