

Question	Response
<p>I'm very happy you moved to online</p>	<p>Thank you for attending.</p>
<p>With more than 62% of families having two working parents and data showing how damaging early release times are for working families, why are we still considering early release times?</p> <p>Our outdated school schedules are hurting working parents – ThinkProgress</p> <p><a href="https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/famee.pdf">https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/famee.pdf</a></p>	<p>Thank you for the information. The content of this evening’s event is focused on the committee scope of work, which was move all high school start times to start no earlier than 8:00 AM and move preschool start and end times earlier.</p>
<p><a href="https://archive.thinkprogress.org/our-outdated-school-schedules-are-hurting-working-parents-6d8c0f3dca5a/">https://archive.thinkprogress.org/our-outdated-school-schedules-are-hurting-working-parents-6d8c0f3dca5a/</a>(With more than 62% of families having two working parents and data showing how damaging early release times are for working families, why are we still considering early release times?</p> <p>Our outdated school schedules are hurting working parents – ThinkProgress</p> <p><a href="https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/famee.pdf">https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/famee.pdf</a>)</p>	<p>Thank you for the information. The content of this evening’s event is focused on the committee scope of work, which was move all high school start times to start no earlier than 8:00 AM and move preschool start and end times earlier.</p>
<p>Thanks for doing this tonight, even with the difficulties. :)</p>	<p>Thank you for attending.</p>
<p>Will the final decision be announced in this meeting?</p>	<p>This meeting is to share the process and proposals that the start time committee has put forward for stakeholder feedback. The timeline for decision making is separate from that work, but it is shared in the presentation. The decision making will occur after a final recommendation is delivered to the superintendent following the January 12th committee meeting. A decision will come likely in February after the superintendent is able to process both the committee recommendation and stakeholder feedback and consult with the board of directors.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Elementary early release means more cost for after school care for working parents. How does the school district plan to address this? It's punishing working parents and unfair</p>	<p>Assuming the reference is to Option 2, which potentially releases elementary earlier, that is the type of potential impacts the committee wants to share with a final recommendation. How the district and individual families are able to develop mitigation strategies for this type of impact is the reason a sufficiently long runway is necessary between a decision and implementation. These are the types of details families and district staff will need to plan for mitigation strategies.</p>
<p>Is there gonna be school tomorrow for middle school ( RHMS )</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Is this meeting being recorded for viewing later?</p>	<p>Yes. Both last nights and this meeting will be posted to the district website page for this work. The presentations are essentially the same, but there were a couple of slides added between the first and second presentation to address specific questions that were raised in the first information night.</p>
<p>is the study includes high school kids from this school district?, I mean that includes the same "life patterns" that our kids?</p>	<p>The research referred to in the presentation was not specific to Lake Washington School District, rather it was referencing a growing and substantial body of peer reviewed research presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, Center for Disease Control and others. The district did commission a literature review in the last iteration of this process. Links will be shared on the district web page associated with this committee work.</p>

Question	Response
<p>for every kid, regardless of their age, there was research saying different people has different starting time of day. Moving school starting time to 7:40 for any grades means we are punishing kids with later nature starting time. It's unfair. How does school district plan to address this?</p>	<p>There is a substantial body of research around adolescent sleep pattern and resulting issues associated with early start times for adolescent students. There is less conclusive research around elementary age students that includes conflicting information. In general, there is some agreement in the literature about elementary age children sleep patterns including earlier bedtimes with correspondingly early wake up times. There are always exceptions to generalizations certainly, which is part of what exists that body of research. This feedback would be great to share in the ThoughtExchange too as others have done pertaining to Option 2 start times for elementary.</p>
<p>Is middle school time going to change too or is it just High school and preschool?</p>	<p>The interdependent nature of school start times largely driven by the transportation constraints under which districts, including Lake Washington, operate really means it is nearly impossible to change the start time of one level without impacting others. The start times of middle schools are impacted in both options presented. Currently, the district has multiple different start times for middle schools ranging from 7:50 to 8:25. Both options would consolidate start times, albeit at different times in each respective option, for middle schools.</p>
<p>if the study includes a sample of kids of our school district, what's the percentage of that sample from the total?</p>	<p>The research referred to in the presentation was not specific to Lake Washington School District, rather it was referencing a growing and substantial body of peer reviewed research presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, Center for Disease Control, and others. The district did commission a literature review in the last iteration of this process. Links will be shared on the district web page associated with this committee work.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Does not seem like Choice school parents were included - Why was an effort not made to include them? Also seems choice schools like ICS were used almost as if no one cares what time they start.</p>	<p>Choice school are included in the feedback process and in the process. The regions shown in the presentation were not representative of the schools of attendance, rather the geographic region of the district. The transportation constraints, namely trying to minimize the addition of routes, did mean in one scenario ICS was moved to a different start time than other high schools. The impact of the options proposed on choice school families and students would be great to share in the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>Does the recommendation account for impact to family schedules who has with kids in Elementary, Middle and High school?</p>	<p>There were committee members with students spanning the full range of our students and families. The impacts on individual families are different for different options, and the impacts for multi child families with students spanning multiple levels will be different than, for example, a family with students only in elementary school . The discussion included did included these types of impacts, however it would be very beneficial to have these expressed in the ThoughtExchange both to support the decision and, once a decision is made, the implementation planning.</p>
<p>I had a question on Elementary A and Elementary B schools since the times are different for them, Elementary B has later starts . We are currently at a later start at 9:20am. So does that mean we are Elementary B? Or would that change?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. This is why the A and B schools modeled in each option are not able to be released. There will be some changes and until a decision is made and the final routing and planning is underway, there could continue to be changes. A school that is currently in the B group, may or may not continue to be in the B group in either option.</p>
<p>Background question - If we are to bump high school times later, does that mean the 9:20 am elementary schools would be even later too? During the winter we don't have daylight hours after school for things like park time due to the 3:50/4pm pickup. It also becomes a childcare challenge as most jobs want earlier attendance.</p>	<p>Neither of the options presented move the B group elementary start time later. Option 1 would keep that at 9:30 and Option 2 would move it earlier to 8:05, but neither option presented would move it any later.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Any school starts at 7:40am means kids who walk/bike/drive to school will need to commute in dark, raining and even snowy mornings in winter days. How does school district plan to address the safety issue introduced by this?</p>	<p>You are correct. For a significant portion of the fall and winter and even into the spring, there is potential for students to be getting to school in predawn conditions. Mitigation strategies would need to be developed and these are exactly the impacts the committee is seeking to understand and include in both a final recommendation as well as to inform the district's and families' ability to plan for into next school year.</p>
<p>Has there been any consideration about elementary band and middle school jazz band start times? They're already SO early and the start time hinders participation. Please tell me you're thinking about how to keep band from starting even earlier.</p>	<p>This is a detail, depending on what the final decision would be, that would need to be worked through the spring. It is an example of one of the reasons a sufficiently long lead time is needed both for families and the district to plan for this type of change. While there has been conversation and acknowledgment by the committee and district staff of potential impacts like this, there is not a detailed mitigation plan in place currently to address it. There would be a plan developed based on a final decision.</p>
<p>are highschool kids riding school busses or metro busses?</p>	<p>Students at Lake Washington High School do in fact use Metro transportation if they require it. There are three existing Metro routes that services the school and the district pays for two additional routes. No other school in the district has sufficient coverage to utilize solely Metro transportation for this purpose. This was something the committee explored with King County Metro.</p>
<p>what's the percentage of students that arrives school on school bus vs the percentage of kids that arrives school on other transportation methods?, could you share those percentages if available?</p>	<p>It fluctuates from year to year, month to month, and even day to day. In general, though, we are currently transporting approximately 6,900 of our 30,000 students each day or 23%. Pre-pandemic, we were transporting more than 30%.</p>

Question	Response
<p>I saw the two options: my concern regarding one of the option is the middle school start time is too early. We are concerning the amount of sleep time for high school student, should that concern be applied to middle school and younger as well? - I find that the younger kids sleep longer and have trouble getting up early in the morning</p>	<p>This is good feedback to provide to the process. The committee did have discussions of middle school start times. The scope of work given to the committee was high school start times, and at the same time, a lot of the research speaks to adolescent sleep patterns which certainly can include some middle school students, especially 8th graders. Option 2 was designed to address this concern. That option does move both middle and high school to 8:30 or later start times. What the committee wrestled with really is the unintended consequences of the different options. Moving too late might help with sleep and also create other complexities like impacts on after school opportunities for middle and high school students, where 70% and 50% of our students also participate. These are exactly the compromises that make this a complex issue, and your feedback is helpful in understanding those impacts.</p>
<p>Is an elementary school that currently starts at 9:20, in the "Elementary B" group?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. This is why the A and B schools modeled in each option are not able to be released. There will be some changes and until a decision is made and the final routing and planning is underway, there could continue to be changes. A school that is currently in the B group, may or may not continue to be in the B group in either option.</p>
<p>do lake washington high school students ride metro or school busses?</p>	<p>Students at Lake Washington High School do in fact use Metro transportation if they require it. There are three existing Metro routes that services the school and the district pays for two additional routes. No other school in the district has sufficient coverage to utilize solely Metro transportation for this purpose. This was something the committee explored with King County Metro.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Can we not move elementary school start times to earlier than 8.30AM?</p>	<p>Option 1 has elementary start times at 8:40 and 9:20 AM. The interdependency of the start times largely driven by transportation constraints means moving one level does have impact on others. The committee did have a long discussion about setting the start times optimally for each level and then building around it. That discussion quickly became operationally and financially prohibitive, which is why in each of the options put forward for stakeholder feedback, there are compromises.</p>
<p>Northshore district was able to move the high school start time later, without touching the elementary schools. Can we borrow their approach?</p>	<p>Each district engaged in this process has slightly different context, so what one district does may or may not work for another. The committee did look at what surrounding districts did to change their start times, and some of that was referenced in the presentation. Northshore has a range of start times for elementary schools, and some did change because of the high school changes. The context in Lake Washington is different, and so the options, while informed by the work of others, really are unique to our context too.</p>
<p>how do you specifically measure the optimal quality of learnings on high school kids? and that revision is specific on this school district high school kids?, could you share that information please?</p>	<p>I believe the question is referring to the research around adolescent sleep that was a driver for this committee work. That research speaks to the health problems associated with sleep deprivation and makes a connection between school start times and sleep issues. Additionally, there conclusions drawn about impact on academic and behavioral success. The measures for those vary across the studies. The research was not specific to Lake Washington, but we do have several ways we monitor and track student performance, graduation rates, and social and emotional learning.</p>
<p>So there will be no voting process this year?</p>	<p>The feedback through ThoughtExchange is open ended, so stakeholders can express their preferences as well as share the impacts on their unique context in that way.</p>

Question	Response
<p>What is the cost of increasing our bus fleet to accommodate a later start time for High school students?</p>	<p>Our current operational costs for our existing transportation system is 14.6 million with 83% of that cost funded by the state and the remaining %17 coming from local levy. Moving high school without impacting elementary or middle would require moving the high school transportation tier completely out of the system, so the costs would be for an additional 61 buses, drivers, and operational costs. The estimates range and would be dependent upon what state funding we could qualify for in transportation funding, but it could be upwards of \$10 million. There are other issues the district would also need to overcome such as hiring and sustaining enough drivers, especially with decreases in overall hours for the runs, as well as purchasing and storing the buses. We do not have capacity in our current fleet. We believe we have sufficient capacity in our existing fleet, as we maintain a pool of equipment, for both Option 1 and Option 2 presented by the committee. Final costs will be determined after route optimization and planning once a final decision is made.</p>
<p>I somehow didn't see these, or the proposals, nor do I see them on Google. Is there a link that can be shared?</p>	<p><a href="https://www.lwsd.org/get-involved/task-forces/previous/school-start-time-advisory">https://www.lwsd.org/get-involved/task-forces/previous/school-start-time-advisory</a></p>
<p>is there a reason why the students feedback responds are so slow in percentage? (only 14%)</p>	<p>There isn't a technical reason, and we encourage strong participation by all stakeholders.</p>



Question	Response
<p>Do we have taken studies about impact on elementary and middle school kids with early start especially those kids need more sleep time than high school kids?</p>	<p>There is a substantial body of research around adolescent sleep pattern and resulting issues associated with early start times for adolescent students. There is less conclusive research around elementary age students that includes conflicting information. In general, there is some agreement in the literature about elementary age children sleep patterns including earlier bedtimes with correspondingly early wake up times. There are always exceptions to generalizations certainly, which is part of what exists that body of research. This feedback would be great to share in the ThoughtExchange too as others have done pertaining to Option 2 start times for elementary.</p>
<p>getting a robust response from one bad option vs one really bad option is not the same as getting interest. there was no option for no change at all.</p>	<p>ThoughtExchange is an open forum for sharing thoughts, including expressing not wanting a change at all. Please share your perspective in the ThoughtExchange.</p>
<p>why are none of my questions on the comment board</p>	<p>Questions are not shared publicly during the event. They will be compiled, answered either in the presentation or by a presenter, and posted to the website.</p>
<p>hello?(why are none of my questions on the comment board)</p>	<p>Questions are not shared publicly during the event. They will be compiled, answered either in the presentation or by a presenter, and posted to the website.</p>
<p>Which schools come under Elementary Schools A and B categories?</p>	
<p>is this presentation recorded so people can watch later?</p>	<p>Yes. This will be posted to the district web page associated with the committee work.</p>

Question	Response
<p>ok, I'm hearing that the mayor issue on the change is mayorly based on the issues that the school district transportation system have?, because that numbers shows clearly that the metro transportation have the great mayor percentage of transportation method on kids on high school, is that a correct statement?</p>	<p>Metro provides transportation for one of the high schools, but it is not able to serve the others sufficiently to supplant district transportation for other schools. You are correct that a major consideration is what the district is able to do to transport students to and from school. (ok, I'm hearing that the mayor issue on the change is mayorly based on the issues that the school district transportation system have?, because that numbers shows clearly that the metro transportation have the great mayor percentage of transportation method on kids on high school, is that a correct statement?)</p>
<p>Are LW HS students part of the 278 students</p>	<p>No. The 278 students referenced in the presentation using outside agency transportation are some students who are qualified and need specialized transportation for special education services and/or who receive services under the McKinney Vento Act, which is intended to provide stability for students experiencing homelessness.</p>
<p>Property taxes for next year went up by nearly 50%. Will that reflect in additional budgets for schools?</p>	<p>Property tax increases are generally tied more to increases in home valuation and do not flow to directly to school district budgets. The state allocates funding on a per pupil basis for basic education. The school district levies are approved by local voters to a total amount, so as the home value rises, the school district portion of that is set, and the corresponding levy rate would decrease, collecting only what was approved by voters. There is not a foreseen significant budget increase for transportation services.</p>
<p>How do we expect Elementary kids to wake up to go to school before 8 when we are saying teenagers cannot!</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to provide in the ThoughtExchange. The research around start times for elementary age students is not as conclusive or extensive as adolescents.</p>

Question	Response
<p>is there any calculation included on the slides of the costs ONLY for the parents that could be affected by a schedule change?, not only on money bases but timing also indirectly</p>	<p>There is not a cost analysis for parents included in the presentation. The presentation was to share the committee's process and the two options presented for stakeholder feedback. Potential financial burden created by one or both of the proposals was a point of discussion but was not quantified. The impact on individual families is exactly what the committee is seeking to understand through this feedback process / ThoughtExchange both to inform the final recommendation and the decision making and planning.</p>
<p>As a current tax payer Levies are not the answer. I'd prefer to see an audit to see financial checks and balance's . Like a lot of companies you might have to much unnecessary overhead.</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to provide in the ThoughtExchange. The district could not run another levy to pay for operational costs as there is already one in place. Audits are performed annually on school district finances. Operational efficiencies are also under constant review. The levy that was mentioned in the presentation was not proposed, rather the committee was informed as part of the process that school districts can run special levies for transportation capital costs meaning the cost of purchasing new buses if needed. This was in reference to early discussions about how large-scale additions to service models would require additional capital expense, namely school buses. Lake Washington does not have such a levy and does not have any immediate plan to run such a levy.</p>

Question	Response
<p>The annual cost \$825k for special ed (37) translates to around \$120 per student per school day, does that sounds too high?</p>	<p>The question is referring to two different costs. There are 37 district bus routes serving student who require transportation and are qualified. That cost is part of the \$14.6 million dollar annual operating cost. The \$825K was referring to additional transportation utilizing outside providers for different students who need specialized transportation and are qualified for it under special education services. The district is not able to directly provide that for a variety of reasons ranging for specialized equipment to labor shortages. Incidentally, transportation for students receiving special education services is the only transportation school districts are legally required to provide. Most districts provide significantly more than what is minimally required, including Lake Washington.</p>
<p>If there is no perfect solution and if we are not willing to increase bus transportation, why make the change in first place? Can't the current schedule continue?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>How do I know if my Elementary School is A or B?</p>	<p>At this point in time, the A and B elementary schools have not been shared. The options were created using modeling with existing routing and ridership, and as a decision is made and the real work is done, there very likely may be changes to the lists. For that reason, the lists have not been shared at this time.</p>
<p>What schools are Elementary A and B?</p>	<p>At this point in time, the A and B elementary schools have not been shared. The options were created using modeling with existing routing and ridership, and as a decision is made and the real work is done, there very likely may be changes to the lists. For that reason, the lists have not been shared at this time.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Is staying on the same schedule as we are today an option?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>Just noting this has been incredibly clear, detailed, and informative, thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Has the committee considered other impacts for elementary families if the kids are out at 2:10? Aftercare is already unable to accommodate everyone who needs it</p>	<p>The committee discussed many impacts of the different options, including after school childcare. This is great feedback though to share in the ThoughtExchange both to inform a final recommendation but also to aid in decision making and planning in the future. Themes are established from that feedback and one that is developing is certainly around after school care for early release elementary.</p>
<p>Can't the current schedule be an option as well?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>It will be a voting competition between Elementary folks and High/ Middle schools.. based on early/ late start times in option 1 vs option 2</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your perspective. This was referenced in the presentation and is what we have seen in previous iterations of this work. The impacts vary from option to option and family to family including staff. This is what the committee is seeking to better understand in the ThoughtExchange both to inform their recommendation but also to inform decision making and planning.</p>

Question	Response
In Option 1 was it considered that ICS could be part of High school start time grouping?	Yes. The options presented both sought to minimize the addition of routes and buses to minimize increased operational costs. Schools were placed, including ICS in Option 1, to try and balance the number of runs needed in any given tier.
Can you clarify whether the elem start times indicate the beginning of drop off windows, or the actual times class would start? Our son attends Kirk and currently drop off begins at 8:50, but class doesn't start until 9:05. The doors don't even open until 8:55. Thanks!	Thank you for your question. The times listed in both options are the start times for schools. Drop off times would need to be determined at the school level, and that's part of the reason for needing a recommendation January to allow enough time for that planning and communication to occur over the spring.
I like option 2 better - wonder how the final decision will be made?	Please share your perspective in the ThoughtExchange also. The final decision will be made by the superintendent after the committee delivers a final recommendation. The last committee meeting is January 12th and the recommendation will come after that meeting, so the committee can consider the feedback and prepare a written recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent then will consult with the board of directors and others and make a final decision sometime likely in early February. If it stretches beyond that, there will not be sufficient time to plan for a change for the 23-24 school year and would then need to be extended beyond that.

Question	Response
<p>What is the ETA on finalizing one of these options? Assuming it will from the new year</p>	<p>The final decision will be made by the superintendent after the committee delivers a final recommendation. The last committee meeting is January 12th and the recommendation will come after that meeting, so the committee can consider the feedback and prepare a written recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent then will consult with the board of directors and others and make a final decision sometime likely in early February. If it stretches beyond that, there will not be sufficient time to plan for a change for the 23-24 school year and would then need to be extended beyond that.</p>
<p>All these details were shared in the youtube video and email, so what are we learning new from this meeting?</p>	<p>You are correct, tonight's meeting was another way to receive the information recorded in the video and email. There is a little more detail in tonight's presentation than was included in the 12 minute video.</p>
<p>Have you considered an option of not changing anything? What is the impact and how does it compare to presented new options?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>Any change to the Highly Capable program buses ?</p>	<p>Good question. Changes like this are the details the district would need to determine once a final decision is made. Both options do make some change to elementary start times, so it is likely there would be some impact at least in the timing of those runs.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Why did it take LWSD so long to adjust the school start times and have high schools start later? The science has been there for years that teenagers are sleep deprived with such an early start time of 7:30 and do not perform well at 7:30 in the morning.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Changing school start times has proven to be a complex problem and impacts different families in different ways. The committee has worked hard to develop the options and is hoping for strong participation from stakeholders to inform the forthcoming recommendation, decision, and planning moving forward.</p>
<p>If my student current elementary is B would it still stay B, because that's a big factor in our decision we want to choose. Thanks</p>	<p>Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange. The A and B schools are not able to be announced at this time, because there may be changes to those lists once a decision is made and final routing and optimization occurs.</p>
<p>Has raising funds for transportation through the private sector been considered?</p>	<p>In general, the committee explored many different what if questions and one of those was reaching out to private sector for support. That will be a continuing conversation but not an immediate opportunity does not exist.</p>
<p>Do we have any estimates of "when" the decision will be announced by the superintendent ?</p>	<p>The final decision will be made by the superintendent after the committee delivers a final recommendation. The last committee meeting is January 12th and the recommendation will come after that meeting, so the committee can consider the feedback and prepare a written recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent then will consult with the board of directors and others and make a final decision sometime likely in early February. If it stretches beyond that, there will not be sufficient time to plan for a change for the 23-24 school year and would then need to be extended beyond that.</p>
<p>I have a question about Wednesday early release for the elementary schools...will this be the same hours attended as currently if the times change to the earlier starts?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. The number of hours attended on Wednesday will not change, but the start and end time would change to correspond with the new start times for the various schools. There are changes to the A and B groupings, and likely will be more before that is finalized, which is why those groupings are not able to be shared at this time.</p>



Question	Response
will the start times be decided and made this year or next year	The goal currently is for a decision to be made early in February, so implementation of the change of school start times would begin for the 23-24 school year.
what is the reason to optimize for high school times by worsening all the rest?	Please share your feedback on the two options in the ThoughtExchange too. The change in high school is driven by the substantial body of research that exists around sleep issues caused by early school start time for high school students.
can you please leave times as is(what is the reason to optimize for high school times by worsening all the rest?)	This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.
Is this schedule change applicable from next academic year I.e 2023-2024?	The timeline currently is for the committee to deliver a recommendation to the superintendent following their last meeting on January 12th. The superintendent then will consult with the board of directors and others and make a decision. Assuming that decision is made in early to mid-February, the intent is to implement a change for the 23-24 school year. If it is not for some reason, then there would not be sufficient time for the district or families to plan for the change, and it would likely be pushed into the following school year.

Question	Response
<p>If we are spending \$14,000,000 per-year to transport 7,000 kids over 180 days, that's more than \$10 per-kid per-day. Have we considered putting that money into Metro?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. The committee did engage with Metro around transporting high school students. There is not sufficient route coverage, nor are they intending to add it, to shift our students to Metro transportation. Additionally, Metro is having similar struggles with hiring and retaining drivers, and so, their ability to add routes is not what it was even three years ago when LWHS began using Metro. Additionally, the cost of the Metro route, the district pays for two of the five that service LWHS, is more costly than our operational cost. The district also explored and has some experience with contracting out services, which have not proven to be more cost effective than our own internal system.</p>
<p>Option 2 with 7:40 am start for choice school in elementary band does not make a lot of sense there is no buses offered to families to begin with.</p>	<p>This is great feedback to provide in the ThoughtExchange.</p>
<p>How do I vote for the options?</p>	<p>You can share your thoughts and express your preference in the ThoughtExchange survey, linked from the main district website at LWSD.org and open until the evening of January 10th.</p>
<p>Will it be possible that the current school time be kept and none of the 2 options suggested implemented?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>The impact to high school sports and after school jobs needs to be considered. Option 2 is the only feasible option for HS.</p>	<p>Please share your thoughts in the ThoughtExchange.</p>
<p>Is this meeting being recorded for viewing later?</p>	<p>Yes. This meeting is recorded and will be available on the district website.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Is there any thought to adjusting the early dismissal on Wednesdays? Perhaps moving that in-service time to Fridays?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. That is a question that was outside the scope of work for this committee. Moving to a late start instead of early released was discussed, however that is a change that would need to also be collectively bargained and wasn't in scope for this committee.</p>
<p>For elementary school please dont change the school timings. It is very difficult to manage them in the morning and also when they return early.</p> <p>So current timings are good</p>	<p>Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>How many elementary schools are “walk only” and don’t require buses? Can those schools start at the 8:40 or 8:05 time depending on which option is selected?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. We do have some elementary schools that are primarily walking schools in neighborhoods with higher density. However, there are buses running to every elementary school including buses with students receiving special education services. There may or may not be some flexibility as a decision is made the actual routing and planning occurs, but it is not something that the district is able to commit to at this time.</p>
<p>I am concerned about after school activities. My son does choir, sax lessons and tennis. Not related to school. Middle school isn't changing that much but has anyone reached out to other organizations about the impact of changing times?</p>	<p>Please share your thoughts in the ThoughtExchange too. Your question is one of the details and mitigation strategies that will need to be planned for as a decision is made. That is precisely the kind of impact statement the committee is hoping to better understand to both inform the recommendation but also to include for the decision making and planning by the school district.</p>
<p>Is there a plan to increase extended day opportunities for all families that will need them if the elementary day ends at 2:10?</p>	<p>Please share your thoughts in the ThoughtExchange too. Your question is one of the details and mitigation strategies that will need to be planned for as a decision is made. That is precisely the kind of impact statement the committee is hoping to better understand to both inform the recommendation but also to include for the decision making and planning by the school district.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Option 1 seems to have the least impact on Elementary schedules. What preferences have you seen from parents?</p>	<p>The data from previous iterations of this process showed what I think you're referencing, that the impacts of any given option really are dependent on individual family contexts. The data this time is demonstrating the same, and the committee is hoping to be able to better understand what those impacts for families and other stakeholders really are.</p>
<p>Because who wants to actually vote in a democratic process in something so personal as to our childrens schedule. (👉)</p>	<p>You can express your preference in the ThoughtExchange, and it will be included in the committee's work as well as passed along to the superintendent for consideration. The previous iterations of this work did have some opportunities for rank order and voting, and rather than create the clarity sought in the process, the data demonstrated the individual nature of the impacts on individual family and stakeholder contexts. Those are also what this committee is seeking to understand, but the ThoughtExchange is an open forum, and many participants have also shared preferences which will be included in the overall theme sets from the data.</p>
<p>Have y'all considered something like <a href="https://www.scoopforwork.com">https://www.scoopforwork.com</a> ? i.e. Reimbursing parents who drive to school anyway for picking up a couple of students from the neighborhood?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. In general, yes, the committee did have conversations around how to incentivize carpooling and/or alternatives to decrease both cars on the road but also students needing bus transportation as a way to create more flexibility. The district has some significant restrictions in how funding has to be used and accounted for that make something like scoop for work challenging. We are hopeful that as part of the overall sustainability efforts the district might continue to explore options to consolidate drivers, but the committee was not confident in an immediate solution.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Specifically something like  <a href="https://www.scoopforwork.com/products/commute-sync">https://www.scoopforwork.com/products/commute-sync</a>(Have y'all considered something like  <a href="https://www.scoopforwork.com">https://www.scoopforwork.com</a> ? i.e. Reimbursing parents who drive to school anyway for picking up a couple of students from the neighborhood?)</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. In general, yes, the committee did have conversations around how to incentivize carpooling and/or alternatives to decrease both cars on the road but also students needing bus transportation as a way to create more flexibility. The district has some significant restrictions in how funding is determined, has to be used, and then accounted for that make something like scope of work challenging. We are hopeful that as part of the overall sustainability efforts the district might continue to explore options to consolidate drivers, but the committee was not confident in an immediate solution.</p>
<p>In the Transportation by Numbers slide I see bus riders and number of busses for special ed and regular ed. Is the 81 number listed in shuttles the number of busses or riders? How many riders are included in band/orchestra, quest, and choice schools?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. The shuttles listed are the number of buses, not riders. Those routes are typically added after another tier is complete and worked into the tier that way. They are not necessarily, in some cases they are, additional standalone buses and routes.</p>
<p>What is the appeal process if the majority of parents are not happy with the super intendants decision.</p>	<p>The committee would encourage you to share your feedback on the ThoughtExchange too. There is an opportunity at every school board meeting to sign up to speak during public comment.</p>
<p>One thing brought up was moving extracurricular activities to before school...if 50% of his students participate in those how would that help with sleep then?</p>	<p>Moving extracurriculars before school was brought up not in terms of a proposal rather in the sense of that was part of the discussion. Those type of details would have to be worked through once a decision is made, and are part of the reason for needing a decision with enough lead time to thoughtfully engage that work. In general though, yes, if we shifted start times earlier to then just move after school activities before, that has an impact for students. Those are the kind of consequences unintended and intended the committee had to reconcile in developing options. Please also share that input in the ThoughtExchange.</p>

Question	Response
<p>In my opinion, high school students are fine with their schedule. They are already taking responsibility control. Because as it is, the little ones are going to enter earlier. The only thing I would like is for the Elementary students to come in about 20 minutes earlier.</p>	<p>Please share your thoughts in the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>What are the plans for staff members that are impacted by the bell changes. For instance, now my grade school student gets out before I am done teaching. Will there be increased before/after child care options for staff?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. These are the details that would need to be worked out and thoughtfully considered and planned for with a decision. This is why there needs to be sufficient lead time to do that, but in general, the impacts you're referencing would be the kinds of things the committee is hoping to better understand.</p>
<p>Many families use older siblings as afternoon childcare and pickup help for younger siblings. With these start times flipping, how will families be supported? This is an equity issue - so many families cannot make an adjustment to their work schedules.</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. These are the details that would need to be worked out and thoughtfully considered and planned for with a decision. This is why there needs to be sufficient lead time to do that, but in general, the impacts you're referencing would be the kinds of things the committee is hoping to better understand.</p>
<p>How will these times affect teacher's start and end times?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. These are the details that would need to be worked out and thoughtfully considered and planned for with a decision. This is why there needs to be sufficient lead time to do that, but in general, the impacts you're referencing would be the kinds of things the committee is hoping to better understand. Start and end times would need to be negotiated, so that is work that would need to occur this spring.</p>

Question	Response
<p>have they considered eliminating early release days to cover the 1000 hours per year requirement. you could shorten days.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. The scope of this committee's work was high school start times and preschool start and end times. In general, though, the committee did discuss length of day, which is also something that would need to be bargained with labor groups as a working condition, potentially also impacting compensation. Alternative schedules are being explored at the state level that may eventually grant school districts increased flexibility in meeting the requirement too, but in general that 180 days is contractual and puts some limits on the variability of running shorter days and still meeting the overall requirements in statute and through OSPI.</p>
<p>LWSD currently have 31,000 students. Assuming, hypothetically, that 26000 students ride the bus. Using this number, couldn't we charge a monthly fee to the families that use the bus (unless they are low income approved) to raise funds for more buses? For example, charge \$15 ( less than one visit to Macdonalds) per month for 10 months (Sept to June). Hypothetically speaking 26,000X15X10 would bring 3,900,000. That would more than cover the costs of adding buses according to the slide presentation. Families could be given the option to pay yearly, quarterly or monthly. Wouldn't this be a possibility? Any surplus can be saved for future years. Have the committee looked at that?</p>	<p>There isn't a mechanism that would allow us to charge such a fee, but there would also be some unforeseen implications, not the least of which state funding is tied to the geographical model of school transportation. This is the kind of creative thinking the committee explored in the What If questioning and process outlined in the presentation.</p>
<p>Option 1 table doesn't list a start/dismissal time for preschool students at elementary B like the table for option 2. Will those schools still have preschool? For example, Sandburg currently has preschool and starts at 9:20.</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. This is one reason why the A and B schools modeled in each option are not able to be released. There will very likely be changes and until a decision is made and the final routing and planning is underway, there could continue to be changes. Changing locations of programs was not within the scope of work for this committee, so that was not discussed.</p>

Question	Response
<p>The elementary school change to early release times can drive even more parents to look for alternative options like private or homeschooling as such leaving districts is there concern around that it will allow even less funding.</p>	<p>Please share this thinking in the ThoughtExchange too. The impacts to your family and families like yours are what the committee is seeking to understand better to inform the recommendation but also the decision making and planning.</p>
<p>Is the schedule definitely changing to either Option 1 or 2 or is the current schedule still under consideration for the decision?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>Thanks I think it's super important to implement any of the options ASAP. have king county transportation considered to have alternate routes morning &amp; evening rather than static routes that do not work?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question, and please share your input in the ThoughtExchange also. King County Metro routing was discussed to support our schools, however their governance structure and priorities do not necessarily align with school districts. They are governed by the King County Council, so large scale service changes have to be approved that level.</p>
<p>How is this equitable for families (low income primarily) who rely on older children (high school) to pick up younger siblings? Or who rely on older children to provide income for the family?</p>	<p>Please share this perspective in the ThoughtExchange too. These are the types of impacts the committee desires to better understand to inform the recommendation and decision making and planning moving forward. In general, the impacts of school start times now and changes have different impacts on different families and stakeholders. That is what the committee wants to better understand.</p>
<p>For families with both parents working 9-5 jobs, which is common in our community, early start for elementary students mean they spend more time in after care therefore they spend less time with parents. Studies have showed that younger kids spending more time with parents is crucial for their development. Option#2 is very detrimental to such families which has young kids and both parents working 9-5.</p>	<p>This is great feedback to provide in the ThoughtExchange too. Thank you for sharing it.</p>



Question	Response
<p>Did the committee take such factors into consideration when proposing the 2 options?(For families with both parents working 9-5 jobs, which is common in our community, early start for elementary students mean they spend more time in after care therefore they spend less time with parents. Studies have showed that younger kids spending more time with parents is crucial for their development. Option#2 is very detrimental to such families which has young kids and both parents working 9-5.)</p>	<p>This is great feedback to provide in the ThoughtExchange too. Thank you for sharing it. Discussions included impacts to various families, and various family dynamics were represented on the committee. Your feedback is exactly what the committee is seeking to understand. The impact of changes is different for different families and stakeholders, and the interest is understanding those both for the recommendation but also for the decision making and planning efforts.</p>
<p>is not changing being considered?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>nice dodge(is not changing being considered? )</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change.</p>
<p>won't highschoolers have less time for work since they are getting home later and also that the buses sometimes are late so some people might not get home until 3:50 if we end at 3:20?</p>	<p>This is an impact that the committee would like to hear more about.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Doesn't having before school programs for HS students remove the benefits of later start times? Everyone is affected, but they still start school early.</p>	<p>This is an impact that the committee would like to hear more about. The reference to before school activities was not intended as a proposal, rather it was intended to share the types of conversations the committee had as they worked through the process. Others have asked if that is a possibility, and that was discussed. Ultimately though, the district will have to thoughtfully plan around whatever decision is made which may or may not include a more detailed conversation about moving activities before school. The example of this that currently exists in our system is 0 period classes as well as some before school activities like Jazz Band. Those kinds of details are why there needs to be a long enough time between a decision and implementation to thoughtfully understand and plan for those impacts.</p>
<p>What is the plan for sports after school? Especially currently they take so much time daily basis swim team or basketball or other sports ....this will push time for High school and this will end up having no time for academics homework</p>	<p>The committee is responsible for making a recommendation on changing high school and preschool start times, but a specific plan will need to be developed following a decision on that recommendation. The district's athletic director was a member of the committee, and the committee did discuss potential impacts as well as examined data around participation in these activities. This really came into focus for middle school. While we have more flexibility in that scheduling because our middle schools only play each other rather than in a conference with other districts, we do not have lights in the facilities. Late dismissal of middle school has a big impact in that way. There are impacts for high school for either option that will need to be worked through this spring, and many of the districts around us already dismiss later than us. Woodinville High School, for example, dismisses at 3:20 currently, which is the latest in Kingco.</p>

Question	Response
How much each option costs to the District?	The cost differential is really tied to the operational costs of additional bus routes for each. Option 1 would add, using current ridership for modeling purposes, up to 8 additional routes. Option 2 would add up to 11. We do believe there are optimizations that could reduce that, and when we submit numbers to the state, we will receive some funding, but not all. The range of cost increase in both cases is within budgeted parameters, as we have conservatively budgeted the last couple of years. We also believe we have the capital resources, namely buses, to run the routes. We will have to add additional drivers and have already been engaging in strategies to improve recruitment and retention in that area.
What held back lwsd implementing any of the choices sooner?	I cannot speak to previous iterations of this work except to say changing school start times is a complex issue. This committee was charged with the task of making a recommendation on how LWSD could make a change.
Was sharing transport (buses) from other school districts considered to resolve or optimize options?	Not specifically, no. Districts operate transportation systems that are optimized for their unique contexts including start and end times of schools. Most run a tiered system like LWSD but on different schedules for their unique start and end times. There are examples in the state of smaller districts running transportation Co-Ops, Marysville and Lakewood are the closest. Typically they are either both really small and overlapping or one is bigger and one is small, like the Marysville - Lakewood example. Bigger districts like LWSD tend to be too complex to make that work efficiently in the same way.
won't highschoolers have less time for work since they are getting home later and also that the buses sometimes are late so some people might not get home until 3:50 if we end at 3:20?	This is great feedback to provide to the ThoughtExchange. The committee did discuss issues like this and realize that a change impacts different families and stakeholders differently.

Question	Response
<p>is it a requirement that all schools in the district change? can lwhs feeder schools not change times?</p>	<p>Because of the interdependence of our system, it is not possible to change one part of the system without impacting others, so the short answer is no. Changing the rest of the district and not changing just the LWHS feeder schools is not possible. Additionally, the research around adolescent sleep patterns establishes 8:30 in many cases as the earliest start time that provides the intended benefits for adolescent sleep. That is why the committee ultimately used 8:30 as the time parameter limit for high school.</p>
<p>Having schools get out earlier for elementary will require more families to need childcare. Childcare is expensive and not very available. Was childcare considered?</p>	<p>Childcare needs for families were discussed and is one of the impacts that is expressed by many families in the ThoughtExchange. Please add your thinking there too.</p>
<p>Are the potential solutions Current, Option 1, and Option 2? It's not clear to me if we are trying to move away from current, or if we are just trying to find the best option among these 3?</p>	<p>The scope of work for the committee was to change the start times of high school to no earlier than 8 AM and preschool earlier, so the Options 1 and 2 align with the scope of work.</p>
<p>Do you have any data on how starting school at 7:30 impacts the learning abilities and mental health of elementary students? If not, do you take a responsibility for the potential effects of these changes?</p>	<p>There is a smaller body of research on start times for younger children, although it is not as extensive as the work that has been done around adolescents / high school age students that does not point to corresponding ill effects because in general younger students have different sleep patterns. Generalizations are not universal though, and it would be important to share your perspective in the ThoughtExchange especially around Option 2.</p>
<p>Is there a place to give feedback about those options? For example, advance elementary school time for more than an hour will be a dramatic change for the little ones and the family.</p>	<p>Yes. There is a ThoughtExchange where you can both add thoughts and respond to the thoughts of others. That closes on January 10th in the evening.</p>

Question	Response
<p>\$14 million per year for 100 busses would mean \$140,000 per-bus per-year. Is that really correct? Even if you added in 80 shuttles, that's still \$78,000 per-vehicle per-year which seems very high. It would be good to understand the per-hour cost to operate the vehicles that we're paying and compare that to other options. E.g. public metro busses look to cost between \$100 and \$200 per-hour of operation. Metro may not be able to handle additional load currently, but what could they do with \$14 million more dollars per-year?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. 14.6 million in operating costs includes all of the overhead associated with providing transportation, so additional routes will not add that same unit cost. We already have, for example, the buses needed for each option presented or believe we do, and those are already insured and maintained. We won't add additional labor beyond the cost of drivers. The cost analysis is being developed and really pertains more to the fuel, additional maintenance and driver labor costs, but adding a route is significantly less than that. The routes the district currently pays for to support Lake Washington School District are a good comparative point. Those are significantly more expensive than our route expense. Metro is more cost effective at scale when we are able to utilize existing routes, but it is more costly when we have to pay for those routes directly. Metro showed now interest, in part because they have labor and equipment shortages too. Existing route coverage was not sufficient at the other schools to be a significant help in the development of options.</p>
<p>most Choice school students have to travel far away. In order to start school at 7:50am, many students have to catch the shuttle bus around 6:50am. Don't you think it is too early for 12-15 years old to go to school?</p>	<p>This was discussed by the committee, and is in part why Option 2 exists and has been put forward for feedback from stakeholders. Please share your perspective in the ThoughtExchange. This is a thought that has been shared by others too.</p>
<p>is it possible to consider a carpool model where parents drive vanpools to school bussing a set of kids? (like the king county rideshare)</p>	<p>Vanpools were indeed part of the conversation with Metro, and the committee encourages the district and parents to continue pursuing options that reduce the number of single rider or single family cars. There are very limited vanpool resources in the community for this to be an immediate impact on the change of school start times, but it is something worth pursuing in the future if not for this purpose than also for sustainability efforts.</p>

Question	Response
<p>will this change be permanent</p>	<p>The decision to change start times after the committee makes a final recommendation would be intended as a lasting change to school start times. The only reluctance in using the term permanent is circumstances in the future might necessitate a change. A significant change in funding mechanisms could be an example of a circumstance that might warrant reconsideration of start times in some way, as one example.</p>
<p>Instead of moving Elementary and middle school timings in favor of high school late start, was an option considered to move all school times by 30 minutes to 60 minutes later?</p>	<p>There were many options considered and even more ideas discussed and vetted. The earliest start and latest dismissal have intended and unintended consequences that the committee considered. Too late of dismissal has a larger impact, as one example, on after school opportunities for students. Too early has a different impact on families and students. The options presented were the two the committee had consensus around bringing forward that best met the parameters given and mitigate as much as possible a variety of concern. The complexity of the problem coupled with the interdependency of the system did not allow a perfect solution.</p>
<p>Another question. Preschool sign ups happen in January in our area. Some of the proposed elementary start times would make drop offs at both preschool and elem impossible. How can parents plan for next year when we do not know what time our students will begin school, especially with such a wide range of possibilities?                      Thanks again.</p>	<p>These are the details that must be worked out when a decision is made and in part why it is imperative the committee conclude work to make a recommendation. The district and families will need time to plan for the change this spring to be able to reasonably implement a change for next school year.</p>

Question	Response
<p>will this change be permanent</p>	<p>The decision to change start times after the committee makes a final recommendation would be intended as a lasting change to school start times. The only reluctance in using the term permanent is circumstances in the future might necessitate a change. A significant change in funding mechanisms could be an example of a circumstance that might warrant reconsideration of start times in some way, as one example.</p>
<p>Middle school occupies the fewest number of years in a students LWSD career. If we are trying to maximize later starts for student health, it seems to make sense to have the burden of an early start time last only 3 years, vs 6 yrs if early start was to be put in the elementary level. Is that something that has been discussed?</p>	<p>The committee discussed many impacts and consequences of many options before arriving at the two presented. That perspective was in the conversation too. It would be great to also add your perspective to the ThoughtExchange.</p>
<p>Seems like moving Elementary start times earlier just shifts the sleep problem from the HS students onto the Elementary students.</p>	<p>Please add this perspective to the ThoughtExchange.</p>
<p>Will teacher contractual hours change or be more flexible? For example, I teach at Sandburg with a 3:50 dismissal. Getting to the resource center in Redmond or masters degree classes has been extremely difficult or impossible as most start by 4 or 4:30. It is disheartening wanting to attend PD, but having district sessions start before it's possible to arrive, yet other elem. colleagues do arrive since they are dismissed 30 minutes earlier than my school and much closer to RC. At least with option 2 all h.s. (latest dismissal group) gets out at the same time so everyone should be able to make PD.</p>	<p>The distribution of before and after school contractual time will need to be negotiated between the association and school district. The committee's work was to make a recommendation understanding there are implications that district staff will need to work through, some similar but some different, for either of the proposals.</p>

Question	Response
<p>so they put it up for a vote, it was voted down so now they are doing it anyway???????????????</p>	<p>The last iteration of this process did not have a vote associated in the sense of do or don't. The data that was referenced in the presentation was referring to a rank order exercise that was conducted with various stakeholder groups to try and identify proposals with the most support across the stakeholders that demonstrated the impacts and preferences were very individual and level dependent. This committee was tasked with making a recommendation to the superintendent for moving all high school start times to 8 AM or later and preschool earlier.</p>
<p>will this change be permanent</p>	<p>The decision to change start times after the committee makes a final recommendation would be intended as a lasting change to school start times. The only reluctance in using the term permanent is circumstances in the future might necessitate a change. A significant change in funding mechanisms could be an example of a circumstance that might warrant reconsideration of start times in some way, as one example.</p>
<p>Might be too much to ask but do we know of other school districts in WA or other places that have solve this.</p>	<p>Yes. Many of our neighboring districts have solved this for their district. Each district has unique context that means there is not really a one size fits every solution. For example, Bellevue and Seattle are able to use Metro and community transit options for transportation for their secondary students. Lake Washington does for Lake Washington High School too, although not at zero cost. The other schools in our district do not have sufficient coverage by transit options for that to be a viable solution, so Lake Washington's context is different, requiring a different solution.</p>



Question	Response
ICS has high school in it and the students comes from different part of the district. Can't ICS follow high school time table?	ICS does follow the high school schedule in Option 2. The placement of ICS in the overall picture was another complexity of this issue. Balancing out the bus routes to try and minimize the overall additional cost, and having enough buses to run in the morning and afternoon, was why it was placed in the earlier time in Option 1.
Is the district considering the added childcare expenses for families with option 2 ? This is huge	The district and families need time to thoughtfully plan mitigation strategies for impacts which is why a recommendation from the committee and decision by the superintendent needs to happen sooner rather than later. This is also exactly the kind of feedback the committee is hoping to collect for both options, because it will inform both the final recommendation as well as the decision and then planning.
Seems like moving Elementary start times earlier just shifts the sleep problem from the HS students onto the Elementary students.  How do we justify just shifting the problem from one age group onto the other?	The committee had conversations about this too, and the research bases for high school and adolescent sleep issues related to school start times is much more conclusive in the negative sense than similar research on elementary sleep patterns. That said, generalities do not apply in every instance, and the research basis on this topic is not as extensive as the early start time impact on high school. This is feedback that would be helpful to share in the ThoughtExchange too.
Regardless of which option 1 or 2, will the optimization like optimizing route/buses by increasing the radius to 2mi will have impact on option choices.	The committee is not considering a reduction in service as part of their recommendation. That did not create sufficient capacity to create additional flexibility in the routing to move start times relative to potential impacts.
If Elementary A and B can't be made until later then how are we supposed to pick our options that works. Don't get that	Please share your input as if both times might be true. The ThoughtExchange is open ended, and you can share a concern that might be different depending on either an A or B designation in either option.

Question	Response
will this change be permanent	The decision to change start times after the committee makes a final recommendation would be intended as a lasting change to school start times. The only reluctance in using the term permanent is circumstances in the future might necessitate a change. A significant change in funding mechanisms could be an example of a circumstance that might warrant reconsideration of start times in some way, as one example.
do we know of other school districts in WA or elsewhere with similar profiles have solved this?	Yes. Many of our neighboring districts have solved this for their district. Each district has unique context that means there is not really a one size fits every solution. For example, Bellevue and Seattle are able to use Metro and community transit options for transportation for their secondary students. Lake Washington does for Lake Washington High School too, although not at zero cost. The other schools in our district do not have sufficient coverage by transit options for that to be a viable solution, so Lake Washington's context is different, requiring a different solution.
I know you can't share exact groups for elementary A or B for the two options, but can you share the approximate PERCENTAGE % of schools or students that might be assigned A vs B? Like is it 50/50? Or like 30% at 7:40 and 70% at 8:05 vs. 30% at 3:10 and 70% at 3:50.	Yes. Good question. It isn't quite 50/50 for either of the options, but it is close.
When are we planning for implementation?	If the recommendation is made in January and the superintendent is able to make a decision with the information presented and in consultation with the board of directors in early February, then planning would start then for implementation in the 23-24 school year.
Being part of an elementary that doesn't have any bus service at all, it seems like switching times earlier for us specifically will only have negative impacts on the school overall. Has this been taken into account?	Good question. There is transportation at every school for some students, even the walking schools, so there is some impact. There are details like this that would need to be worked through though, so there may be potential for some flexibility

Question	Response
<p>Do you have links to the studies for teenagers and late start? Also, do you have data for grades and grad rates along with attendance and tardy stats that coincide with later start dates for high school students? I would also be curious to see how this impacts the lower income demographics in the different areas.</p>	<p>Links to research will be posted to the district website for this committee's work, including a literature review commissioned by the school district in the last iteration of this committee work three years ago now.</p>
<p>Thought exchange does not have enough character limit to express concern in detail. Is there an alternate way to express our thoughts in detail?</p>	<p>We would still encourage you to put some thinking in ThoughtExchange, but you may also use <a href="mailto:starttimes@lwsd.org">starttimes@lwsd.org</a> if you would like to send more narrative. That will be shared with the committee.</p>
<p>Thanks for the presentation. Moving the highschool start time to later is great. However, 1. Why can't all start times be after 8am. 2. How much did the committee look into development effect of lack of sleep on younger children?</p>	<p>The interdependence of school start times largely driven by the transportation constraints under which districts, including Lake Washington, operate really means it is nearly impossible to change the start time of one level without impacting others. Starting all after 8 was actually an option the committee directly discussed. The issue really then became pushing the first tier to 8 pushes the rest back an additional 20 minutes too, which had a more dramatic impact, real and potential, on after school opportunities for students. The committee tried to balance many factors like that that were in tension with each other to come up with best possible options.</p>
<p>will this changes be permanent</p>	<p>The decision to change start times after the committee makes a final recommendation would be intended as a lasting change to school start times. The only reluctance in using the term permanent is circumstances in the future might necessitate a change. A significant change in funding mechanisms could be an example of a circumstance that might warrant reconsideration of start times in some way, as one example.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Curently, LWSD is not capable of providing schoolbus transportation to band students. Students have to wait schoolbus to their homeschool for 20-60 minutes after band classes end each time. How do we get extra buses for new start times, is there a separate budget?</p>	<p>Yes and no. The budget for Transportation is funded partially from state funding based on ridership, 83% and partially from local levy, 17%. Buses for band would be completely funded from levy and not qualify for any reimbursement or state funding. So, yes in the sense that there could be some return from the state for adding buses transporting students to and from school, but not for band. The options presented would require additional buses, which we believe we have in our existing fleet, but we would have to hire additional drivers.</p>
<p>Are you leaning more towards option 1 or 2?</p>	<p>The committee has discussed and will continue that discussion as it considers the feedback being collected pros and cons of both options. Each option creates different impacts for district operations as well as for families and stakeholders. The job of the committee is to make the best recommendation it can to the superintendent.</p>
<p>Can choice schools start 30 minutes after their home school? That way choice schools students can take their home school buses</p>	<p>This is feedback that would be great to leave in the ThoughtExchange too. The two options presented attempted to meet the scope of work and guidelines the committee used to weigh the discussions. The tiers for transportation routing are balanced including choice schools to minimize both cost increase but also to maintain capacity for things like shuttles for Quest.</p>
<p>Will the committee recommendation be shared? (Not just the final decision?)</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Usually, Elementary kids have siblings of toddlers where as high schoolers have siblings who are elementary atleast</p> <p>For working and non working parents it is easier to manage one kid easily than multiple</p> <p>So Not changing elementary school timings makes more sense</p>	<p>Please share this feedback on the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>Will you share the presentation slides and/or the recording? Thanks!</p>	<p>Yes, to both. They will be posted on the website for the committee's work.</p>

Question	Response
If the idea was to have the high schoolers start later and pre k to start earlier could you not switch the current pre k time with current the Highschool time?	They use a very different number and style of bus, so it was not possible.
Hi, As parent of a kindergarten kid, I think 7:40 am is too early as totally dark and no road lights. It's too dangerous for kids walking to school that early.	Please share this feedback on the ThoughtExchange too.
I just want to comment, I love the idea of elementary school starting earlier. Having more time in the afternoon for play will be so healthy for social and emotional development of kids!	Please share this feedback on the ThoughtExchange too.
So, this is happening whether students, parents and staff want it or not, yes?	The committee's work was to make a recommendation. This meeting was presenting the committee's work for feedback. Please share your thoughts in the ThoughtExchange. The committee has no decision-making power.
You're solving the money/transportation problem by sacrificing the children's health. Shame on you!	Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange too, especially in reference to one or both options.
Is the thought exchange feedback just going to the committee or also to the superintendent?	Both.
Please share the questions and comments shared by other parents too	They will be posted to the website for the committee's work along with minutes and materials from each meeting and the recordings for these meetings.
Adolescents NEED option 2 start time...regardless of the small group needs you referenced as barriers	Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange.
Thank you for your work!	You're very welcome.
Great presentation. Thank you.	You're welcome.
What is the difference between "Elementary Schools A" vs. "B"? How do I know which group my elementary school child belongs to?	
What sort of studies have been made on the impact for elementary students and their families? It seems that the study is heavily skewed towards high school students and their families. Only 4% of the participants were from elementary families.	There is some, although it is less conclusive than the research around sleep and adolescents. It was considered in the process. The number of elementary was 41% of the sample.
Thank you for hosting these sessions, for sharing information with us in such a clear way, and for involving us in the process.	You're welcome.

Question	Response
<p>Not really a question but just really hoping that the science is followed-that high schoolers need as much sleep as possible. Thus the later high school start time scenario is the best option when considering their needs.</p>	<p>Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>Both option 1 and 2 group elementary schools into two groups A and B. Has the school district publicized which elementary schools are in which groups (A vs B), and if so, could you share the information? Thank you in advance.</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. This is why the A and B schools modeled in each option are not able to be released. There will be some changes and until a decision is made and the final routing and planning is underway, there could continue to be changes. A school that is currently in the B group, may or may not continue to be in the B group in either option.</p>
<p>How are parents expected to keep jobs if school lets out at 2:10pm? This early of an end time seems like it would cause extreme hardships for working parents.</p>	<p>Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange relative to Option 2.</p>
<p>Again, the project seem frustratingly over pivoting on the impact on adolescent students with no respect or concern for other students in other age groups.</p>	<p>Please share this feedback in the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>The thoughts collection process and tool doesn't seem like a quantitative way to gather feedback.</p>	<p>It is a more open ended, qualitative tool, but there are ways to quantify the themes and sentiments expressed from those open ended. Additionally, thoughts are rated by additional users, which gives some sense of what resonated with larger groups of stakeholders too. This is a good point that we will add to the next presentation.</p>
<p>What were the numbers for option 1 versus option 2? More support than 2018 doesn't say what the absolute numbers are.</p>	<p>The more support comment was in reference to the first round feedback. There was a preponderance of statements shared in the first ThoughtExchange that demonstrated support for a change. It was quantified in the sense of a either or statement.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Did you consider Bellevue and Seattle school districts who have had late start for 2 years, and get input from their admins how to implement early start in LWSD.</p>	<p>Each district engaged in this process has slightly different context, so what one district does may or may not work for another. The committee did look at what surrounding districts did to change their start times, and some of that was referenced in the presentation. This is a good suggestion to help clarify in future presentations, and we thank you for that.</p>
<p>What happens to before-school and after-school activities (Band, Choir) of elementary school students as a result of the time change? For e.g. today band is before-school for my elementary school child. With Option 2, A would start at 7:40, and having band before that would be way too early.</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to add to the ThoughtExchange too. Additionally, these are exactly the details that the district and families need time once a decision is made to work through. The committee's work was to make a recommendation and inform that planning work, which is in part the intent of the ThoughtExchange.</p>
<p>did you also look at rescoping the routes to make sure they are as efficient as possible? For example, consolidating bus stop points with larger radius of students who use that stop. to reduce the time of the route because fewer stops?</p>	<p>Yes. That's part of what will need to occur this spring too once a recommendation is made. (did you also look at rescoping the routes to make sure they are as efficient as possible? For example, consolidating bus stop points with larger radius of students who use that stop. to reduce the time of the route because fewer stops? )</p>
<p>I wonder what we'd learn if we polled parents to see who is interested in foregoing bus service...maybe enough parents would be willing to transport their kids/carpool to be able to cut routes?</p>	<p>The constraints around how districts provide transportation are established in Washington Administrative Code, board policy and really driven in large part by the funding mechanism for school transportation which limits districts to the geographic model of transportation. The committee did investigate alternatives that might limit service, and ultimately did not see a way to work within the constraints and generate sufficient capacity to create additional options.</p>

Question	Response
<p>You mentioned that LWSD runs a "lean" bus transportation system compared to other (smaller) districts; why can't it just run more buses? Doesn't it make sense for such a large district to run more buses anyway?</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. The district running a lean system really pertains to the context in which we live in part. The density of some of our routes allows us to consolidate, to run fewer buses. That's more a geographic reality than an intended choice. Perhaps a better to state this is the district runs an efficient operation, and LWSD still spends more than is funded by the state as do most of the other districts. Both options do actually require more buses and will result in higher operational cost, and the committee considered that. There was not a viable cost neutral solution, and the financial reality is adding a high cost by say adding 40 more buses would mean significant cuts to some other aspect of district operations. That was a balance the committee sought to achieve, meet the scope and not add prohibitive cost. You're correct though, the easiest way to solve the problem would be to add a bunch more buses and drivers. The other mitigating factor is the challenge in the labor market. It is increasingly difficult to attract, train, and retain drivers, so that became a part of the conversation too.</p>
<p>The assumption that elementary students' parents are up early anyway is such a reaching conclusion.</p>	<p>That is a fair point. We have to be careful about generalizing. The reference wasn't so much to parents up early as it was to the smaller body of research around elementary age student sleep patterns suggesting younger students rise earlier naturally.</p>
<p>What does "Transition" mean on the Options slide?</p>	<p>It is the adult transition program for students in our 18-21 program. These are students receiving special education and who qualify for transition services until age 21. (What does "Transition" mean on the Options slide?)</p>



Question	Response
<p>how many % Ele and Preschool students wake up early, and they need go to school at 7:40am?            How many family has been involved in this research? my kids can't wake up early. I need to work late. it is not reasonable for little kids to wake up so early. please consider it. one more thing, why Ele &amp; Preschool can't start at 10am</p>	<p>The research wasn't specific to LWSD, and it is not as conclusive as the adolescent sleep research.</p>
<p>Is there an option to attend a committee meeting and share feedback in-person?</p>	<p>We do not have an open community forum for that purpose. Please utilize the ThoughtExchange to share your perspectives and/or you could email a longer narrative to <a href="mailto:starttimes@lwsd.org">starttimes@lwsd.org</a>.</p>
<p>Can we vote to keep the current schedule? It works perfectly for our family. Thank you!</p>	<p>This is feedback that would be great to leave in the ThoughtExchange too.</p>
<p>If it's a walking school and doesn't affect budding, is it possible that an B school can become a B school?</p>	<p>There are several elementary schools that have mostly students who walk to school, but each school does have some students who are transported. The schools in the A and B groups are designated in large part to make the transportation system work without adding significantly more routes, requiring more buses and drivers, and incurring significantly more cost. That is in part why the A and B school groupings are not shared at this time, as those are likely to still change when a decision is made and the detailed planning of routing is done. The current route model was built using existing ridership data and has not been fully optimized to seek those efficiencies. This is a detail though that will need to be worked out if and when a decision is made to move forward with a proposal.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Would it not be possible to make high school athletics/clubs before school because they have to provide transportation for those activities anyway and that mitigates the time spent after school so students still have relatively the same amount of time after school?</p>	<p>This is one of the details that would need to be worked out over the course of the spring. There may be some possibility, but that is unknown. The district does have some examples like zero period classes and things like Jazz Band that currently happen prior to 1st period. Athletic competitions would be likely impossible to schedule prior to school.</p>
<p>When HS students have after-school jobs at, say, McDonalds, do those employers have the flexibility to give students shifts that start a bit later to accommodate later times?</p>	<p>This is a detail that will need to be explored if and when a decision is made, and is one of the impacts that would be great to capture in the ThoughtExchange. .</p>
<p>Will the times change either to option 1 or 2 or is there a possibility that the times won't change at all and stay the same. Thank you!</p>	<p>The committee</p>
<p>We don't disagree with high schools starting a little later but it shouldn't be at expense of K-5. Taking k-5 to 7:40am is insanely early. We are not supportive of moving K-5 start to earlier time.</p>	
<p>Option 2 seems like the best option for students - with schools starting later as children age. Is the biggest negative the number of buses needed?</p>	<p>The committee is seeking to understand the impacts of options on different stakeholders, and what the data is saying is those impacts, positive and negative, are different for different families and stakeholders. I'm not sure we can quantify what is biggest or smallest in terms. Both options moved forward by the committee for stakeholder feedback add additional operational expense in the form of buses, but both were considered within the realm of possibility from a financial and operational feasibility standpoint.</p>

Question	Response
<p>As middle schoolers are also adolescents, why are we considering starting them earlier than elementary? They also need the sleep that the high schoolers need.</p>	<p>This is good feedback to provide in the ThoughtExchange too, and it is definitely something the committee discussed regularly. The research around adolescent sleep does arguably include some middle school age students. That is why two options were put forward by the committee too, and there are different implications both on organizational operations but also on individual families. That is what the committee is seeking to better understand in this engagement process.</p>
<p>all the working style has been changed,. are the research based on last 30 years really reseanale?</p>	<p>The research referred to in the presentation is arguably not related to work, rather it is summarizing a body of research around the sleep patterns and impacts of disrupted sleep patterns on developing adolescent age children. In that research, early school start times are called out as one of the larger impacts on adolescent sleep. The research outlines some of those impacts on health as well as academic wellbeing.</p>
<p>When will the district inform parents of their final decision?</p>	<p>The committee will outline a recommendation at the January 12th meeting, which will then be written and formally delivered to the superintendent the following week. The superintendent will consult the data and with the board of directors, and if the intent remains to implement any change next school year, will need to make a decision in early to mid-February. That is when we anticipate an announcement, likely mid-February. If a decision is not able to be made then, we do not feel there is sufficient time to inform parents and have the time necessary for both families and district staff to thoughtfully plan for this change.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Without adequate funding, can the district implement one of these options? What will be cut as a result?</p>	<p>Both of the options presented while adding cost were estimated as financially viable. This is work that will need to occur over the spring as part of the district's annual budgeting process. We, for example, believe we have enough buses in our current fleet to not incur additional capital costs purchasing additional buses. We maintain a fleet larger than is used on a daily basis for maintenance swaps and the natural change in need that occurs annually and throughout each year. We have conservatively budgeted the past couple of years since COVID as ridership fell from pre pandemic levels, so there is some operational capacity. The detailed cost analysis for both proposals will not be complete until a decision is made and the routing and optimization work is done.</p>
<p>Is there going to be another thought exchange/vote after the elementary schools A vs. B are assigned? Unfortunately, it's really hard to "vote" for one option or the other without knowing what group my child's school belongs to.</p>	<p>To be clear, there is not a vote occurring. While many stakeholders do express a preference for one or the other, sometimes neither, the information the committee is seeking to understand is the impacts of both proposals on individual stakeholders. The ThoughtExchange will allow multiple thoughts to be submitted, so it would be helpful to share the impacts of the A or B group. Those have not been released because there are likely to be changes when the detailed planning is done for either option. Modeling was done using current ridership data, but route optimization and problem solving has not occurred yet.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Is it an option to keep current schedule?</p>	<p>This would be good feedback to include in the ThoughtExchange. The driver for change here and in many of our surrounding districts has been the substantial body of research around adolescent sleep issues related to early school start times. The committee was not asked to determine whether or not a change is necessary though, rather it was tasked with making a recommendation on how the district could make a change. After a recommendation is made, the superintendent in consultation with the school board will make a final decision on moving forward or not.</p>
<p>Are the stakeholders deciding which option gets chosen or is the committee using the feedback to choose?</p>	<p>The committee will use the data collected to understand the impacts of both options to outline a final recommendation at the January 12th meeting, which will then be written and formally delivered to the superintendent the following week. The superintendent will consult the data and with the board of directors, and ultimately make the final decision.</p>
<p>Can the municipal bus system (request to be modified) to support the LWSD changes?</p>	<p>The committee did engage with representatives from Metro. Metro can make small adjustments in the timing of existing routes to help make existing options more useful, however there is not enough capacity at the other schools on existing Metro routes to supplant the need for district provided transportation. There are no current plans by Metro to add sufficient coverage to supplant district provided transportation.</p>
<p>Does the committee have a strong leaning toward one option?</p>	<p>The committee, much like the broader community of stakeholders, saw impacts that were positive and not positive for both proposals. The committee did not feel there was a perfect option, and so there are compromises in both. Ultimately, the committee elected to put two options forward for community feedback to better understand the impacts of both on individual groups and individual stakeholders.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Could LWSD high schools even participate in KingCo activities if they don't release until 3:40pm with Option 2?</p>	<p>This is a detail that will need to be explored if and when a decision is made, and is one of the impacts that would be great to capture in the ThoughtExchange. 3:40 would be the latest dismissal for a KingCo school and create some unique challenges in scheduling with other KingCo schools. How those can be overcome is work that would need to occur this spring should that be the outcome of this process.</p>
<p>Is there anyway students can be more involved? I myself am a highschooler in the district with strong opinions about this and was wondering if there was anything more I could do?</p>	<p>The committee absolutely wants to hear from students in the ThoughtExchange. Please encourage others to complete that too. Additionally, if you would like to add additional comments or suggestion, please reach out to <a href="mailto:starttimes@lwsd.org">starttimes@lwsd.org</a>.</p>
<p>Which school year do we think this might roll out?</p>	<p>The intent if the decision can be made in early to mid-February would be to implement the changes for the 23-24 school year. To do that we believe we need a long runway from the decision to the implementation to give families and district staff sufficient time to plan.</p>
<p>When would the plan be announced if for 23-24 so families can plan? Is there a latest announcement goal so families don't need to scramble?</p>	<p>The goal is to deliver a recommendation to the superintendent after the last committee meeting on January 12th, likely the following week. The superintendent then will consult with the data and the board of directors and make a decision early to mid-February for announcement. The intent is to make a decision sooner rather than later to give families and the district time to thoughtfully plan for the change. If a decision cannot be made on that timeline, we do not believe there is sufficient time and we would need to delay the implementation.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Have you considered finishing school year later a week or two and starting it earlier too in August. To compensate for staff time, alternative could be by offering additional time off later in a year and enable substitute teacher coverage.</p>	<p>Thank you for the creative suggestion. This is similar to what the committee was asked to do early in the process. While this was not specifically discussed by this committee, the committee did work to understand the 180 school day requirement as well as the State required instructional hours. Alternative calendars were discussed, but not this specific suggestion. The committee found that changing a school year calendar in a significant way would require renegotiating multiple contracts with district labor groups and likely result in additional and significant unfunded costs.</p>