



Trumbull Board of Education
November 10, 2020

Later School Start Time Committee Presentation

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent

Robert Martini, Parent

Bryan Rickert, Principal, Hillcrest Middle School

Sara Scrofani, Technology Integration Specialist

Background Work

- Feb. 2019: Exploratory committee BOE presentation by consultant Jonathan Costa
- March 2020: BOE presentation by expert Sarah Raskin, Ph.D.
- July 2020: BOE establishment of TPS Committee with November report deadline

Committee Charge

Approved by BOE July 2020

- *Charge:* To determine what implementation of later school start times would look like, and require, in Trumbull

Committee Members

- Jack Allen '21
- Gabriella Biondi '21
- Jonathan Budd, Ph.D., Asst. Supt., Chair
- Meredith Chamberlain, parent
- Britney Cullinan, parent
- Cooper Dayton '22
- Thomas Edwards, teacher
- Keira Grant '21
- Marc Guarino, THS Principal
- Michael King, THS Athletic Director
- Amy Lehaney, parent
- Rob Martini, parent
- John Mastrianni, TEA
- Ken McCabe, TLC
- Frank Modugno, community rep.
- Jennifer Neumeyer, Tashua principal
- Dawn Perkins, Transportation Coordinator
- Bryan Rickert, Hillcrest Principal
- Stuart Schwartz, community rep.
- Sara Scrofani, teacher
- Frank Squicciarro, parent

Committee Process

- Transparency re: website postings of agendas, minutes, & recordings
- Formation of subcommittees
- Five total meetings
- Committee discernment process toward tonight's presentation

Themes from Committee Discernment Process

- All presented options of this committee will affect students, parents, teachers, and after-school programs. The goal is to find the best solution that will impact our children in a positive manner.
- Change is hard at first; then people adapt; and in time it becomes common practice.

Key Factor: Student Transportation

- Bus transportation required by State statute
- Tier = one level of bus service
 - Currently, TPS has 2 tiers based on:
 - Secondary (7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
 - Elementary (8:35 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.)
- 50 minutes *minimum* needed between bus tiers
- Key Implication: Any change(s) in *start &/or end* time must meet transportation parameters

Key Factor: Special Student Populations

- Aquaculture
 - # of students: 149
 - Current Schedule: Leave THS ~12:00 p.m. M-F
- RCA
 - # of students: 23
 - Current Schedule: Leave THS ~1:45 p.m. M-Th
- Key Question: To what extent will a change in THS *start &/or end* time affect these students?

Key Factor: Athletics

- THS participants = ~1,050 students in ~1,500 spots
- Games typically begin at 4:00 p.m.
- Other FCIAC schools with later-than-usual HS dismissals:
 - Greenwich & Wilton
- Key Question: To what extent will a change in THS *end* time affect these students?

Key Factor:

Length of Day vs. Instructional Hours

- Length of Day = time from first bell to last bell
 - THS currently is 3rd of 153 CT high schools
- Instructional Hours = time spent learning; subtracts time for passing, homeroom, & lunch
 - THS currently is 65th of 153 CT high schools
- Key Question: To what extent will a change in THS *length of day* affect instructional hours?

Main Implementation Options

1. Keep 2-tier bus structure & times, but swap elementary & secondary
2. Keep 2-tier bus structure, but move all start times later
3. Keep 2-tier bus structure, but move THS times to align with elementary times
4. Add a 3rd tier to the bus structure, and have 3 different sets of times

Option 3:

Keep 2-tier bus structure,
but move THS times to align with elementary times

- Example:
 - Middle Schools: 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Trumbull High: 8:35 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
 - Elementary Schools: 8:35 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Option 3:

Keep 2-tier bus structure,
but move THS times to align with elementary times

- Key Considerations:
 - Meets the articulated health needs of Grades 9-12 students
 - Logistically simple
 - Elementary student day not impacted
 - High transportation cost (~\$2 million for additional buses)
 - Grades 6-8 students left out of the solution
 - Requires ~30 new drivers, which could be difficult

Option 4:

Add a 3rd tier to the bus structure,
and have 3 different sets of times

- Example:
 - Middle Schools: 7:20 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.
 - Trumbull High: 8:15 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.
 - Elementary Schools: 9:05 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Option 4:

Add a 3rd tier to the bus structure,
and have 3 different sets of times

- Key Considerations:
 - Meets the articulated health needs of Grades 9-12 students
 - High transportation cost (~\$400,000 for extended hours for bus drivers)
 - Grades 6-8 students actually would have an *earlier* start time
 - Later day for elementary students may negatively impact some families' schedules

Option 1:

Keep 2-tier bus structure & times,
but swap elementary & secondary

- Example:
 - Elementary Schools: 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Secondary Schools: 8:35 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Option 1:

Keep 2-tier bus structure & times,
but swap elementary & secondary

- Key Considerations:
 - Meets the articulated health needs of Grades 6-12 students
 - Low transportation cost
 - Earlier day for elementary students may negatively impact some families' schedules
 - Some bus routes for elementary students may start in darkness

Option 2:

Keep 2-tier bus structure,
but move all start times later

- Example:
 - Secondary Schools: 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Elementary Schools: 8:50 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Option 2:

Keep 2-tier bus structure,
but move all start times later

- Key Considerations:
 - Meets the articulated health needs of Grades 6-12 students to some degree
 - Low transportation cost
 - Secondary schools' internal schedules would need to change, which has its own impacts
 - Potential contractual implications with various employee groups

Proposed Next Steps

- Enable the continuation of the Committee's work, narrowing to Options 1 & 2, & situating this work in larger wellness conversations & themes
- Develop and implement family survey based on Options 1 & 2
- Pursue implications of Options 1 & 2 on special populations & athletics, as well as on TLC & traffic
- Pursue details of internal schedule changes needed for Option 2
- Dialogue / case studies with districts who have implemented later school start times, both recently and in the past