



# Access to Education Planning

Bell Time Study Task Force  
Creating new efficient school bus routes

February 23, 2023  
Meeting #5

1



Please share the following if you were not here at our first meeting :

- Name
- Title
- Favorite school bus and/or transportation to school memory

2



## Common Agreements

1. Listen with an open mind to different points of view
2. Treat all with respect
3. Challenge the status quo
4. Be courageous
5. Maintain a place of safety with each other
6. Give each other the benefit of the doubt and assume positive intent
7. Be mindful of the Puyallup School District's emphasis on equity
8. Come prepared and participate fully

3

## AGREEMENTS



Stay Engaged



Maintain a Learner Stance  
& Remain Open to  
New Thinking



Speak Your  
Own Truth



Experience Discomfort



Refrain from Pivoting  
to Other "-isms"



Expect and Accept  
Non-Closure

4



## Bell Time Task Force Charter

- Per Policy 6600, Transportation, create and recommend new efficient bus routes that improve on-time performance starting with the 2023-2024 school year.
- Incorporate recent Safety Advisory Committee recommendations for safe walking routes.
- Assess future needs/facilities master planning to ensure students have equitable access to programs.
- Present to stakeholder groups, district staff, and/or the board of directors, as needed.

5



## Why is this work necessary?

Access the yellow school bus provides to education and services provided by Puyallup School District is essential to its core values and mission.

Nationwide school bus driver shortage prompted:

- Recently paused bus routes
  - Continued doubling of routes
  - Inability to provide on-time performance
- Which leads to:
- Purposeful planning of transportation system that aligns with current and future programmatic and facility needs
  - Creation of a more efficient transportation system that allows for consistent, reliable, and equitable service for students, parents, and building staff
  - Has the potential to increase capacity in the transportation system for future unknown needs

6




## World Café

### *Roles*

- **Table Hosts:** Welcome new set of travelers and share information from previous conversation
- **Travelers:** Move from table to table and carry key ideas, themes, and questions into new conversations

7

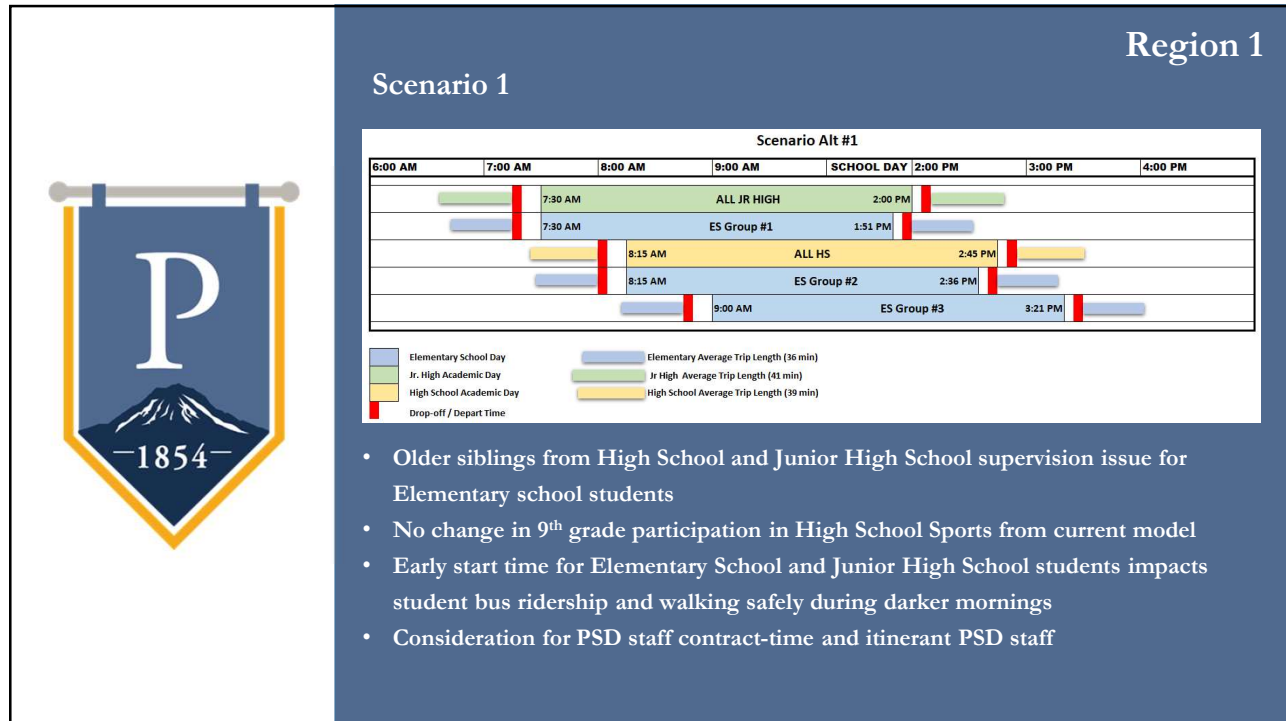


## World Café

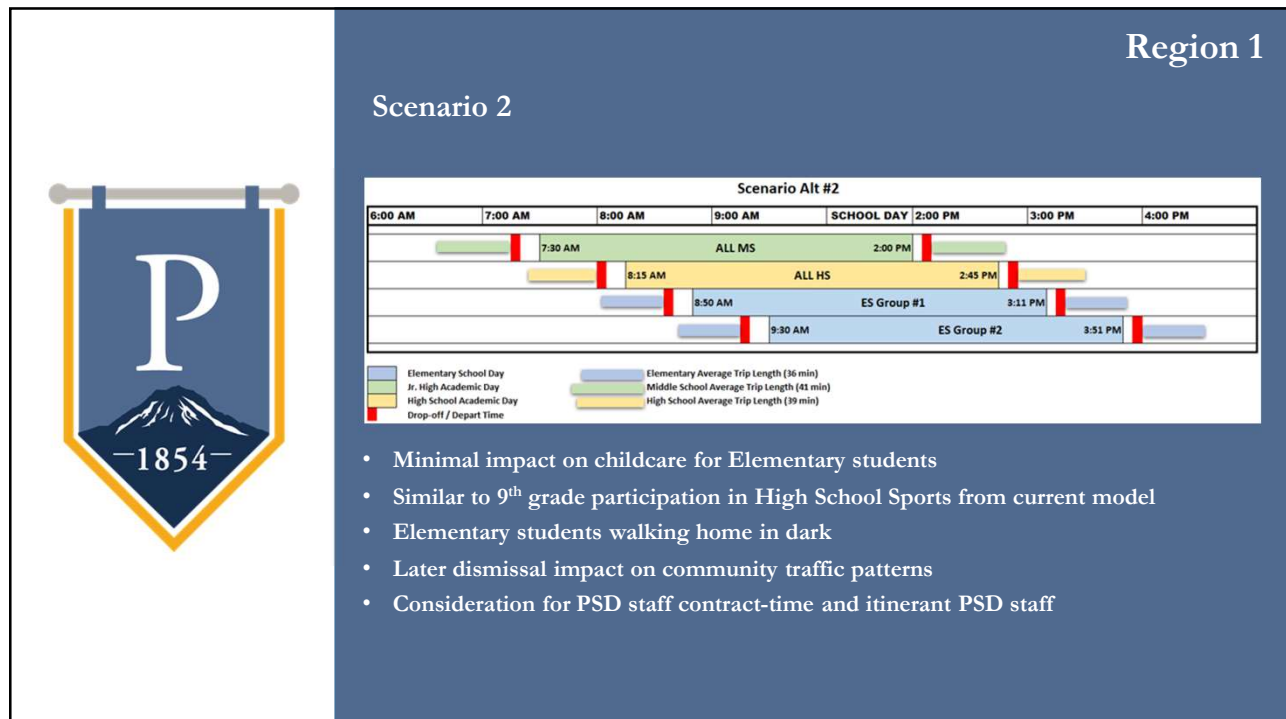
### *Protocol*

- Number off 1-5
- Analyze data set(s) found at each table
- Write, doodle, and draw key themes, discoveries, and insights on poster paper
- Select a “table host” rest of group are “travelers”


8



9

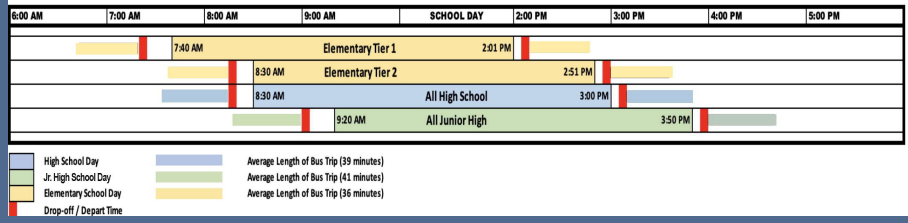


10




## Region 1

### Scenario 3



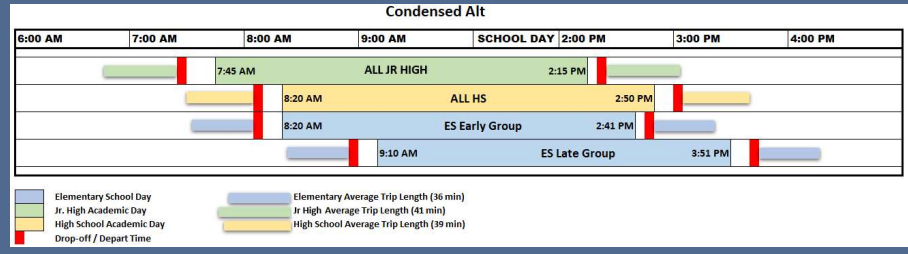
- Older sibling from High School and Junior High School supervision issue for Elementary school students
- 9th grader access to High School sports will be later and practices/events will be in dark
- Concern of Elementary students walking to bus stop in the dark
- Later start time is good for the Junior High and High School students

11




## Region 1

### Scenario 4



- Preferred start time for Elementary school
- Junior High scheduling may not be compatible for access to High School courses
- The school day does not start too early or end too late
- Shared staff (i.e. music, B&O) dependent on feeder school alignment

12



## Region 2

### Scenario 1

**Scenario Alt #1**


6:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	SCHOOL DAY	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM
		7:30 AM	ALL JR HIGH		2:00 PM		
		7:30 AM	ES Group #1		1:51 PM		
		8:15 AM	ALL HS		2:45 PM		
		8:15 AM	ES Group #2		2:36 PM		
		9:00 AM	ES Group #3		3:21 PM		

Elementary School Day  
 Jr. High Academic Day  
 High School Academic Day  
 Drop-off / Depart Time

Elementary Average Trip Length (36 min)  
 Jr High Average Trip Length (41 min)  
 High School Average Trip Length (39 min)

- Junior High start time does against the “brain science”
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade participation in High School Sports does not interfere with school end times
- Elementary school pick-up time may impact community traffic
- Better for student learning

13



## Region 2

### Scenario 2

**Scenario Alt #2**

6:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	SCHOOL DAY	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM
		7:30 AM	ALL MS		2:00 PM		
		8:15 AM	ALL HS		2:45 PM		
		8:50 AM	ES Group #1		3:11 PM		
		9:30 AM	ES Group #2		3:51 PM		

Elementary School Day  
 Jr. High Academic Day  
 High School Academic Day  
 Drop-off / Depart Time

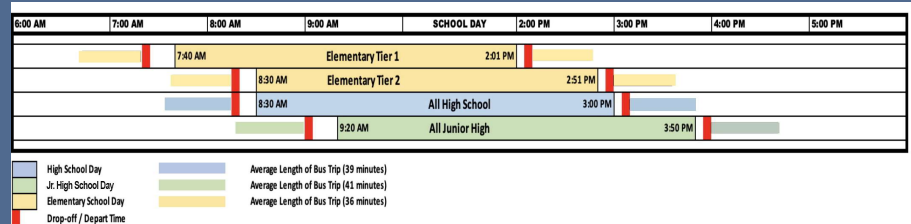
Elementary Average Trip Length (36 min)  
 Middle School Average Trip Length (41 min)  
 High School Average Trip Length (39 min)

- Potential issues with childcare for Elementary students in Group #2
- Later start for High School sport practices/events
- Elementary students walking home in dark
- Junior High start times goes against the “brain science”

14

## Region 2

## Scenario 3

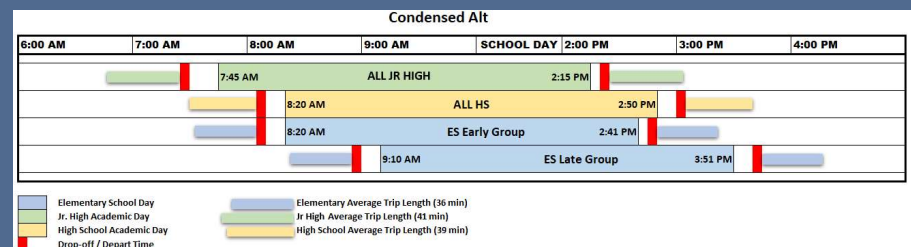


- Older sibling from High School and Junior High School supervision issue for Elementary school students
- Supports the “brain science” for Junior and High School students—would like to flip the High School and Junior High School on model
- Consideration of interdistrict sporting events with later end time
- Concern of Elementary students starting school too early

15

## Region 2

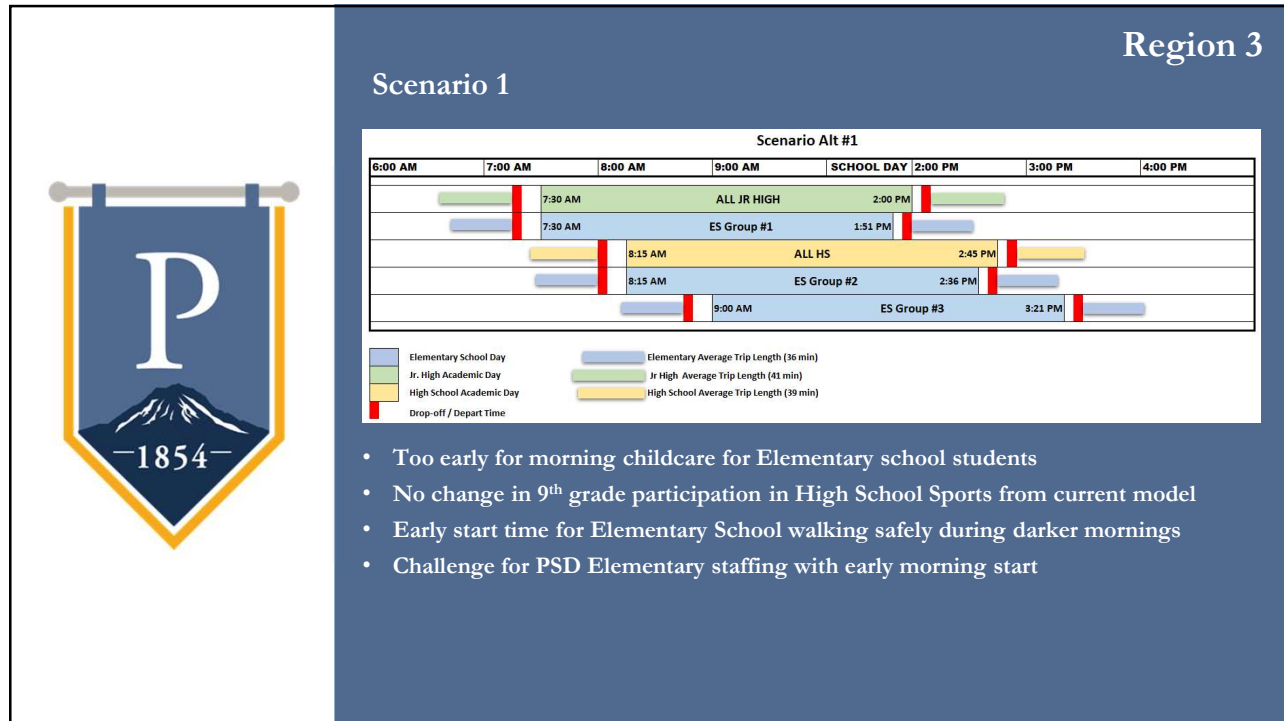
## Scenario 4



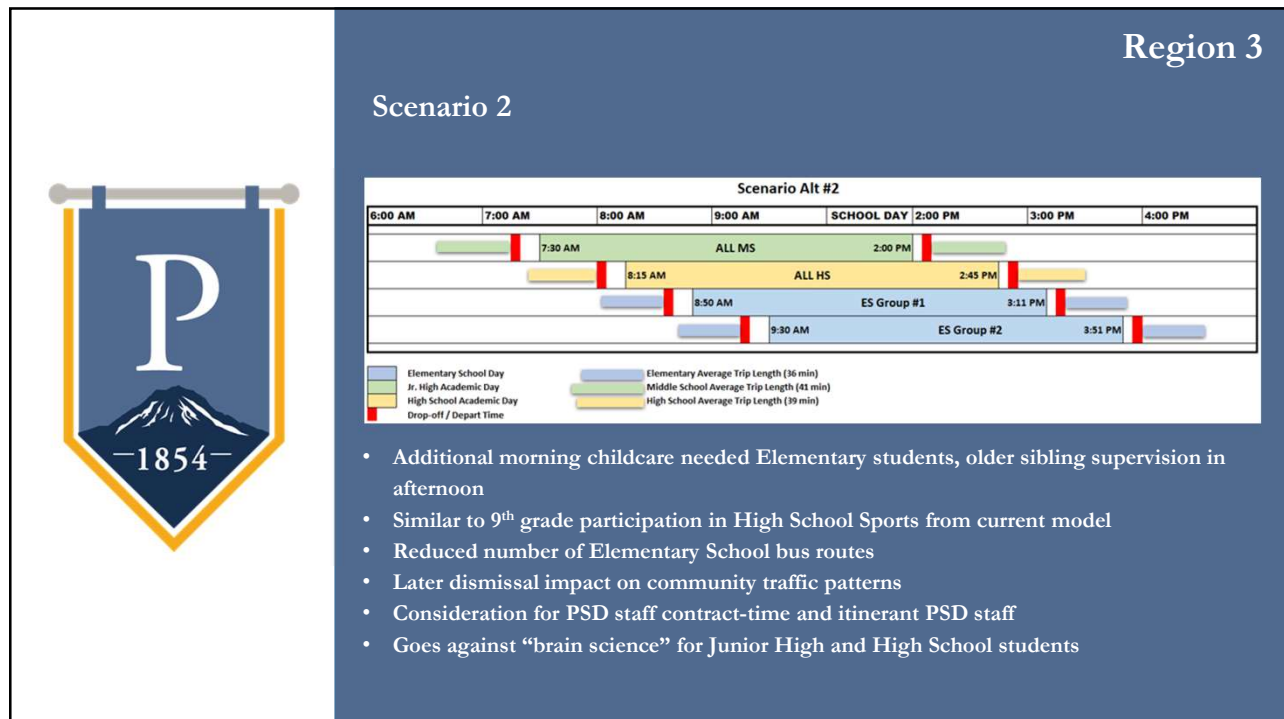
- Preferred start time for Elementary school for older sibling supervision
- High School sport practices/events delayed due to Junior High end time
- Better for scheduling for Junior High participation in High School courses/programs
- Goes against the “brain science” for Junior High Students

16





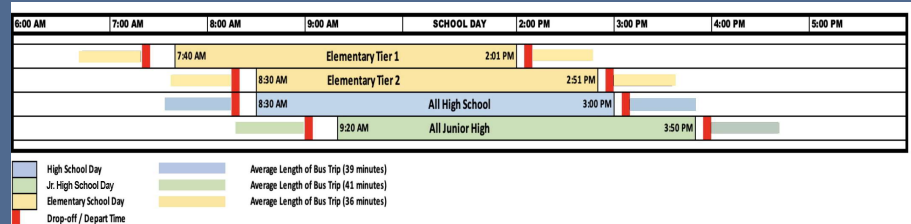
17



18

## Region 3

## Scenario 3

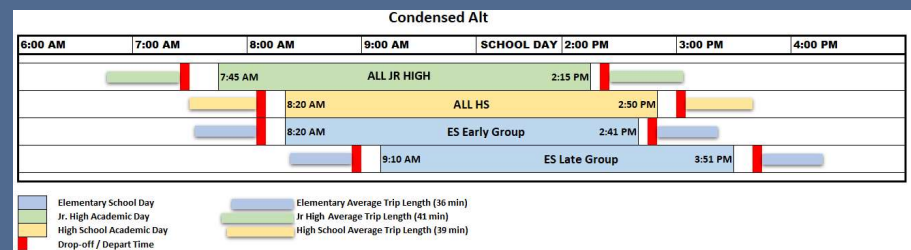


- Older sibling from High School and Junior High School morning supervision issue for Elementary school students
- 9th grader access to High School sports will be later and practices/events will be in dark—consider Zero Hour extracurriculars
- Concern of Elementary students walking to bus stop in the dark
- Later start time is good for the Junior High and High School students

19

## Region 3

## Scenario 4



- Preferred start time for Elementary school
- Impacts older sibling supervision in the afternoon for Elementary students
- Junior High scheduling may not be compatible for access to High School courses and sports
- Overlapping bus times in afternoon could be an issue
- The school day does not start to early or end too late

20



## Feedback from Survey


Childcare

- Increased cost
- Need time to adjust to accommodate
- Impact on working parent schedules, both positively and negatively
- Issue with older sibling supervision

Sports

- Letting High School out later affects athletes who also work
- Junior High releasing later than High School is convenient for 9<sup>th</sup> grade participation
- High School and Junior High School students participating in sports will not get more sleep with later school times

21



## Feedback from Survey (continued)

Students that Rely on Transportation

- Concern of Elementary students waiting at bus stop in the dark
- Would like more widespread bus service to families
- More reliable buses
- Bus options for out of district students

General Start Times

- Currently, Junior High and High School students start too early
- Consider an alternating early and late start Elementary school time
- Consider later start time for High Schools to have more time in the morning
- Do not school start times that have bus stop times too early in the morning

22



## Feedback from Survey (continued)

**Staff Consideration**

- Early Elementary start times could help staff make later afternoon appointments and reduce absenteeism
- Consider early releases instead of late starts to give time back to staff

23



## Tentative Timeline\*

**TIMELINE**

Sept. 6: School Board Commissions Task Force

Sept. 15: Task Force Meeting

Oct. 3: School Board Report

Oct. 18: Task Force Meeting (Region 1)

Nov. 15: Task Force Meeting (Region 2)

Nov. 21: School Board Report

Jan. 23-Feb. 3: [Community Engagement Survey #1](#)

Jan. 24: Task Force Meeting (Region 3)

Jan. 23 – 12-1:30

Jan. 26: [Virtual Informational Open House](#)

Jan. 31: [Virtual Informational Open House](#)

Feb. 21: School Board Report

Feb. 23: Task Force Meeting

Feb. 27-Mar. 10: [Community Engagement Survey #2](#)

Mar. 7: [Virtual Informational Open House \(all-district\)](#)

March 10: School Board Study Session

**April: Bell Schedule Task Force Recommendation to the School Board**

24



## Next Meeting

- Next meeting, March 8, 2023
- Refined Bell Times for Top Two Scenarios

25



## Research Article Links

- <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/earlier-school-times-dont-hurt-elementary-students-learning-research-shows/2022/10>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/benefits-of-later-school-start-times>

26



## Exit Ticket

*Scan the QR Code and complete survey*

