

BELL TIMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, September 21, 2020
6:00 PM
Remote Attendance



-
1. **WELCOME** Monty Sabin
 - Online Meeting Norms
 - Introductions
 - Purpose
 - Agenda Overview
 - Leading with Equity

 2. **TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION.....** Deanna Maddux, Ben Elkins

 3. **FUTURE TOPICS.....** Monty Sabin

 4. **MEETING SCHEDULE.....** Monty Sabin

 5. **CLOSING** Monty Sabin

Next Meeting:
October 19, 2020

September 21, 2020

Bell Times Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Remote Meeting

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

15 members attended

Welcome and Introductions

Assistant Superintendent, Monty Sabin welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Members in attendance introduced themselves and shared their role on the committee.

Purpose and Leading with Equity

Monty Sabin shared the purpose of the advisory committee was to determine if changing to a later start time for the high schools is feasible for the district and beneficial for our students.

He also asked the group to assess all options through an equity lens and to ask the following questions about the proposals: How does this issue connect with our strategic plan and the goals of the district? Will this decision ignore/worsen existing disparities or produce unintended consequences? If so, how? Finally, does this proposal support the message of inclusion? He referred the group to the district's Equity Resolution and EL-11 Policy, Race and Equity for guidance.

Transportation Presentation

Deanna Maddux shared data regarding the district's current General Education and Special Needs Fleet and routes. She provided the committee information on routes and ridership in a typical school year based on the current bell schedule. Deanna then presented a proposed adjustment to the current Bell Times that would move from a four tier elementary start to a two tier elementary start that would keep all four pre-school sites on tier 1 to not change any of the pre-school bell times. The proposed bell schedule would have Elementary Schools begin at either 7:15 or 8:00 am and the High Schools begin at 8:40. Middle Schools would still begin the latest with a proposed 9:40 start time. The time intervals for Envision and Aspire would remain the same amount of time as the current bell schedule.

Deanna explained that the transportation department ran several scenarios for a later start time and the one she brought forward to the committee for review allowed for a later High School start time at the least amount of increase in cost of the models reviewed. The estimated increase from the current schedule would be approximately \$800,000. With COVID cleaning time built in the change could require an increase of 12 additional routes and a cost increase of \$2.4 Million.

Deanna then reviewed other scenarios that were considered and provided information to show why the proposal she presented was the most feasible. Deanna also shared additional items to be considered beyond cost if the district modifies the current bell schedule: New Market times will no longer match NTPS for transport of students in that program, HS Sports may require athletes to lose more class time to leave earlier for events; field availability for HS and MS sports may be an issue, busses may have more limited availability for field trips. One bright spot was that there would be more availability for transport to B&G Club from all schools, another advantage was that more drivers would be able to have an 8 hour day which translates into less turnover and a reduction in cost for Driver Training & Recruitment.

Questions and comments from the committee followed:

- What about Tag?
Tag would be in elementary first tier.
- Is there any way to make a cost neutral change?
Only if Intercity Transit was utilized for HS students that live within the bus lines. In our district we have many areas that are not currently served by IT.
- What is the earliest pick-up time for Elementary Students?

6:20 – 6:30 am (excluding the McKinney Vento students who are transported outside of the district and have pick up times as early as 5:15 am).

- Adjusting the Bell Schedule may impact families who use teen drivers to pick-up younger students from school or have older siblings provide after school care.
- Did the district look at the implications of stretching out the end of the day instead of beginning earlier?
Middle Schools are already late in the day and staff may not want to be pushed later in the day. Middle School after school activities being later in the day would also pose a problem for students being at school until very late.
- Elementary students out at bus stops so early in the morning especially in the winter is a concern.
- HS Students with jobs have limited work hours available with a later start.
- Is it worth the cost to exchange the benefit for one group over another? It's not a win/win across the board.
- Studies show it is worth it for HS students but there is a significant cost to make the change.
- Studies have shown that student performance goes up with a later start time but is it a big enough benefit. Biologically teens are on a different clock - up late and sleep later.
- What do studies show about an early start for elementary age students?
- Would like to look further at pick-up times being as early as 6:15 am.
Most would start closer to 6:40 am for elementary students.
- Out of district sports seem to be an issue with a later start time for High School students.
- Why was Middle School chosen to go the latest?
Budget driven – it is a cost savings to decrease the number of busses and drivers needed. It will also maintain the model for Aspire Middle School students to be transported in shuttles from the Elementary Schools.
- Are all of the models Elementary, High School and then Middle School?
In reviewing all scenarios, the most cost effective was to move to Elem, HS, MS. It also allows for the transport of the Aspire students and addresses concerns regarding the availability of field lighting.
- It would be helpful to see the financial impact of each scenario – with cost analysis in one slide.
- It would also be good to add current budget for model comparison. (Comparison in a typical year not accounting for COVID Impacts).
- How many hours do most drivers get now? Is there a lot of turnover?
Currently about 45% get 8 hours. It depends on the economy.
- Would the proposal add to the challenge of having busses available for after school activities?
Yes, it would likely make it more difficult to have district busses available.
- Would it be possible to create a spreadsheet that captures all of the advantages/disadvantages of the bell time changes moving forward?
Yes

Future Topics / Meeting Schedule

Monty Sabin shared that future topics would include:

- Follow-up presentation by Transportation / District and Community Activities
- Community Survey
- Food and Nutrition
- Academic Research

Meetings are scheduled for:

- October 19th
- November 11th
- December 14th

- January 18th
- February 23rd – Board Meeting

Closing

Monty shared that he would be emailing materials for review before the next BTAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.



Bell Times Advisory Committee

September 21, 2020

Online Meeting Norms

Be on time. We promise to start and end the meeting according to the times on the agenda. If you arrive late, please don't interrupt the call. Remain silent and catch up as best as you can.

Be Prepared. Please review the meeting agenda and any attached documents before the start of the meeting. Be prepared to discuss the issues and offer solutions. We need your opinion and perspective.

Mute yourself. Background noise disrupts the meeting for everyone and might prevent us from hearing the information that we need.

Identify yourself. Before you start to speak, please state your name so we know who is talking. Everyone might not recognize your voice.

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose
- Leading with Equity
- Transportation Presentation
- Future Topics
- Meeting Schedule
- Closing

Welcome and Introductions

Please share with us your name and role.

Purpose

To determine if changing to a later start time for the high schools is feasible for the district and beneficial for our students.

Leading with Equity

- Assess all options through an equity lens. Ask ourselves the following questions about all proposals:
 - How does this issue connect with our strategic plan and the goals of the district?
 - Will this decision ignore/worsen existing disparities or produce unintended consequences? If so, how?
 - Does this proposal support the message of inclusion?
- Refer to Equity Resolution and EL-11 Policy - Race and Equity

Transportation

Presenters: Deanna Maddux – Director
 Ben Elkins – Assistant Director

Future Topics

- District and Community Activities
- Community Survey
- Food and Nutrition
- Academic Research

Meeting Schedule

October 19th

November 16th

December 14th

January 18th

February 23rd Board Meeting

Closing

Questions?

Proposed Later High School Bell Times


What would it look like if High School Started Later in the Day?



A Study for NTPS



Friendly Reminder

- ▶ Decisions are not being made at this time
 - ▶ We are in learning and collaboration mode
 - ▶ The examples shared are examples - not an indication of any decisions that have been made
 - ▶ Please mute your mic
 - ▶ Please use the chat box
- 

General Education Route Averages



\$135,000 - \$150,000

9-12 months for delivery

51 Route buses

23 Spare buses

Approx. 5-10 Gen Ed Buses
Out of Service in shop per
day

- **95 - Number of Gen Ed High School Routes (AM/Shuttle/PM)**
 - 40 - Average Student Per Bus (high is 66)*
 - 37 Min - Average route time (high is 67)*
 - 18 out of 95 routes have more than 52 students (2 per seat)*
 - **103 - Number of Gen Ed Middle School Routes (AM/Shuttle/PM)**
 - 47 - Average Student Per Bus (high is 72)*
 - 39 Min - Average route time (high is 73)*
 - 30 out of 103 routes have more than 52 students (2 per seat)*
 - **135 - Number of Gen Ed Elementary School Routes (AM/Shuttle/PM)**
 - 56 - Average Student Per Bus (high is 78)*
 - 32 Min - Average route time (high is 71)*
 - 90 out of 135 routes have more than 52 students (2 per seat)*
- **Some drivers have more than one ES they drive for*

Special Needs Route Averages



\$95,000

9-12 months for
delivery

39 Route buses

9 Spare buses

Approx. 5 Gen Ed

Buses Out of Service in
shop per day

- **38 - Number of Special Needs High School Routes (AM & PM)**
4 - Average Student Per Bus (high is 9)
42 Min - Average route time (high is 52)
- **28 - Number of Special Needs Middle School Routes (AM & PM)**
5 - Average Student Per Bus (high is 10)
48 Min - Average route time (high is 56)
- **148 - Number of Special Needs Pre-K - 5th Routes (AM & PM)**
6 - Average Student Per Bus (high is 12)

# of Buses with this config.	# of Benches	# of seat Belts	# W/C	Capacity	Capacity @ 1 per seat	Capacity at every other Seat
2	4	8	2	10	6	4
1	5	10	1	11	6	4
11	6	12	1	13	7	4
2	6	14	1	15	7	4
6	6	15	1	16	7	4
3	6	15	2	17	8	5
4	6	18	1	19	7	4
1	7	14	0	14	7	4
1	7	14	2	16	9	6
1	7	21	1	22	8	5
1	8	16	0	16	8	4
5	8	16	2	18	10	6
4	8	21	1	22	9	5
1	9	18	2	20	11	7
1	10	29	0	29	19	5
4	12	24	0	24	12	6

Number of Active Riders the last 30 Days of Spring

High School	Gen Ed Riders	Spec Program Riders		Middle School	Gen Ed Riders	Spec Program Riders
NTHS	684	67		AMS	192	1
TLHS	620	27		CMS	585	37
RRHS	699	33		KMS	532	18
SSHS	23	1		NMS	618	35
				SMS	535	26
Elem School						
CPES	268	26				
EFES	294	20				
HZES	146	37				
LCES	149	31				
LHES	256	29				
LKES	437	28				
MDES	414	77				
MVES	264	123				
OVES	371	19				
PGES	344	19				
SBES	488	22				
SOES	250	41				
WDES	296	25				



Elementary Bell Times

7:15 am – 1:45 pm

8:00 am – 2:30 pm

ELEMENTARY # Tier 1	ELEMENTARY Tier #2
LAKES	WOODLAND
SOUTH BAY	LACEY
EVERGREEN FOREST	HORIZONS
MOUNTAIN VIEW	OLYMPIC VIEW
PLEASANT GLADE	CHAMBERS PRAIRIE
SEVEN OAKS	LYDIA HAWK
MEADOWS	

- **All four “pre-school sites” are on tier # 1**
- Pre-School Bell times are 9:20-11:50, 1:10- 3:40
 - (No change)
- *We would move away from the restrictive 4 tier elementary schedule we currently have now.*



HS & Middle School Bell Times

8:40 am – 3:10 pm

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

High School	Middle School
North Thurston	Chinook
Timberline	Komachin
River Ridge	Nisqually
South Sound 8:50am – 2:50pm	Salish
	Aspire 9:00am – 3:30pm

- The time intervals for SSHS and AMS is the same amount of time we currently have.

Time Range: From 6am To 6pm

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Color Codes Route Set

Item Color

- 1 McV AFTER SCHOOL
- AMS AM
- AMS PM
- CC CMS
- CC LHE
- CC NMS

Route Commands

Bus Commands

- New Bus
- Assign Buses
- Interchange Buses
- Garage Decisions

Unscheduled Routes (86)

Item	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
A - AM	40 35 NM	13 4 32 1		4 11			129pa 104ppM	45 LI 14C	08 14C			35CC L	
B - AM	G - A tra	35 3 1	2 11				122pa 33ppM	46 L 38 A				21CC PGE	
C - AM	H - AM	2					13pa 133	43 2				12-McV	
D - AM	I - AM	18					50p. N	42 35 A					
E - AM	J - AM	1					116 116ppM	49 I					
F - AM	K - AM	52					137paM50ppM	17 NT 34 NM					
	L - AM	06					3 106ppMVE						

Scheduled Routes (486)

Bus	Capacity	Contractor	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
92	78														
93	78														
94	78		22 PG	44 14 I	14 CMS					22 I 44	14	14 CMS			
79	78		23 SBE	15 NT A	15 S					23 SBE	15 NT F	15 S			
80	78		20 SB	16 N						20 SB	16 NT	28 NT F			
81	78		05 MDE	17 N	17 C					05 MDE	17 I	17 CN			
82	78		24	18 N	18 SM					24 S	18 N	18 SMS			
95	78		16 F	19 N	19 CMS					16	19 NT	19 CMS P			
96	78		19 SBE	20 NT	20 CMS					19 SBE F	20 NT	20 CMS			
97	78		42 EFE	21	21 I					42 EF	21 I	21 I			
86	78		17 SB	22 N	22 CN					17 SBI	22 N	22 CMS P			
52	78		11 S	23 N	23					11 SBI	23 N	23			
87	78		31 I	24 NT A	35 A					31 LK	24 NT	35 I			
88	78		08 EF	25 NT						08 EPI	25 NT				
53	78														
54	78		25 SBE	53 N	25 CMS					25 SBE P	53 N	25 CMS			
89	78		21 I	34 48	48 N					21 34	48 N	48			
55	78		15 SBE A	58 I						15 SBE	58 I	24 CMS P			
57	78		14 SB	55 NT						14 SBE	55 NT				
90	78														
58	78		new	43 29	29					43 I 29	29	29 I			
132	78		33	36 W	30 30 KN					36 W 30	30 KN	30 KN			
133	78			31 THS	31 KN					31 TH	31 KN	31 KN			
134	78		48	13 32	49 NM					48 13 32	49 NMS				
135	78		33	33 THS	33 I					33 TH	33 K	33 K			
136	78		38 LKE	38 34 T	11 2					38 I 34	2	2			
TRNG - 1	78		26 LKE	35						26	35				
TRNG - 2	78		49 LK	26 36 TH	36					49	36 TH	36			
TRNG - 3	78		50 I	37 W	37 T	28				50 M 37 W	37 T	28 I			
TRNG - 4	78			01 33 T						01 33	38				
TRNG - 5	78			52 39	39					52 39	39 T	39			
1860	78			30 H	40	50				30 H	40 TH	50 KM			
1861	78			29 I	52 I	42 NM				29 I 52 I	42 NI				
1862	78														
1863	78														
1865	78														
1864	78														

Bus Route	Description	Pickups	Contractor
Start Time	Route Set	Dropoffs	AM Driver
End Time	Anchor	Transfers On	Middy Driver
Route Time	Days	Transfers Off	PM Driver
Anchor Sit Time	Overnight Gar.	Loads: Max Wgt	Route Pair
	Middy Gar.	Largest Bus Capacity	Package Number

Select area between two routes to assign a garage decision. Active Command: Garage Decisions

1st Elementary School is 7:15 am.

Increase from current operations is

- 1 Gen Ed Route
- 3 Special Needs Routes

Estimated cost of \$800,000

*** With COVID Cleaning time built in this could require about 12 additional routes (increase of about \$2.4 Million)*

39 Drivers with at least three schools = 6-8 hours for drivers per day – Better Driver retention

Other Considerations We Tried to Develop

- Elementary Schools on Three Tiers
- Elementary Schools starting at 7:30am
- Elementary starts first, middle school second and high school last
- High School starting at 8:30am

Time Range			Monday													
From 6am			To 6pm													
Color Codes			Route Set													
Item			Unscheduled Routes (86)													
			6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	
Buses (104 out of 142 used)			Scheduled Routes (486)													
Bus	Capacity	Contractor	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	
TBD	200		48 S	01 RR	51 F					48	01 RR	01 F				
19	84		46 L	02 FF						46	02 RF					
20	84		41 L	04 F						41	04 RR	4				
22	84		02 DV	05	05 SM					02 C	05	05 St				
67	79		06	0	45 CMS					06 I	0	45 CMS P				
6	78		12 S	07 F						12	07 R	07 S				
7	78		44 L	08 RF						44 S	08 RI					
9	78		43	5						43	5					
14	78		50 L	10						50 F	11					
17	78		38 L	11 F	32	11				38	11 RI	11				
18	78		26 LKE	13							13	28 NT F				
21	78		50 LKE	09							09	26 NT F				
23	78		40	12						40	12 F	27 NT P				
29	78		39	47 F						39	47 R					
30	78		37 L	57 F						37	57 R					
38	78		07	54 RR	49 N					07	54 RR	48				
39	78		34 L	41						34	41	24 CMS P				
40	78		50 L	58						50 M	58					
41	78															
42	78															
43	78		09 E		12 F					09 EFE	12 F					
44	78		18 DV	4						18 DV	4					
50	78		27 C		13 S					27 DV	13					
56	78		51 EF A	06						51 EF F	06 F					
60	78		53 C	45 S						53 DV	46 S					
61	78		12 LL	04 N						12 L	04 I					
65	78		32 CF	33 F						32 CPE F	33 K					
66	78		47 I		21 I					47	21 I					
76	78		42 EFE	08 NMS A						42 EF	08 NMS F					
99	78		08 EF	53 NMS						08 EF	53 NV					
100	78		13	32	49 NM					13	32	49 NMS				
106	78		new 48	41 I						48	41 I					
83	78		05 MDE	02 SM						05 MDE	02 SM					
84	78		04 LH	47 SM						04 L	47 S					
85	78		38 LKE	1	51 SM					10 I	51 SM					
91	78		10	09						10	0					
92	78		38	39						3	39					
93	78		30 F	31 K						30 H	31 KM					
94	78															
79	78		19 SBE	20 NT	20 CM					19 SBE F	20 NT	20 CMS				
80	78		new 14	34	21					3	21 F					
81	78		17 S	22 N	22 CM					17 SBI	22 N	22 CMS P				
82	78		11 S	23 N	23					11 SDI	23 N	23				

If we Moved 1st Elementary School to 7:30 am; just a 15 min difference.

Created **13** additional General Education routes for a total of at least **65** routes. Increase of \$2.6 Million

*** With COVID Cleaning time built in this could require about 18 additional routes (increase of about \$3.6 Million)*

Only **28** routes able to serve three schools – as opposed to 39 when the start time is 7:15 am changes drivers time to 4-6 hours a day

COVID has shown us that our staff can not survive on 4 hours a day, will impact driver retention

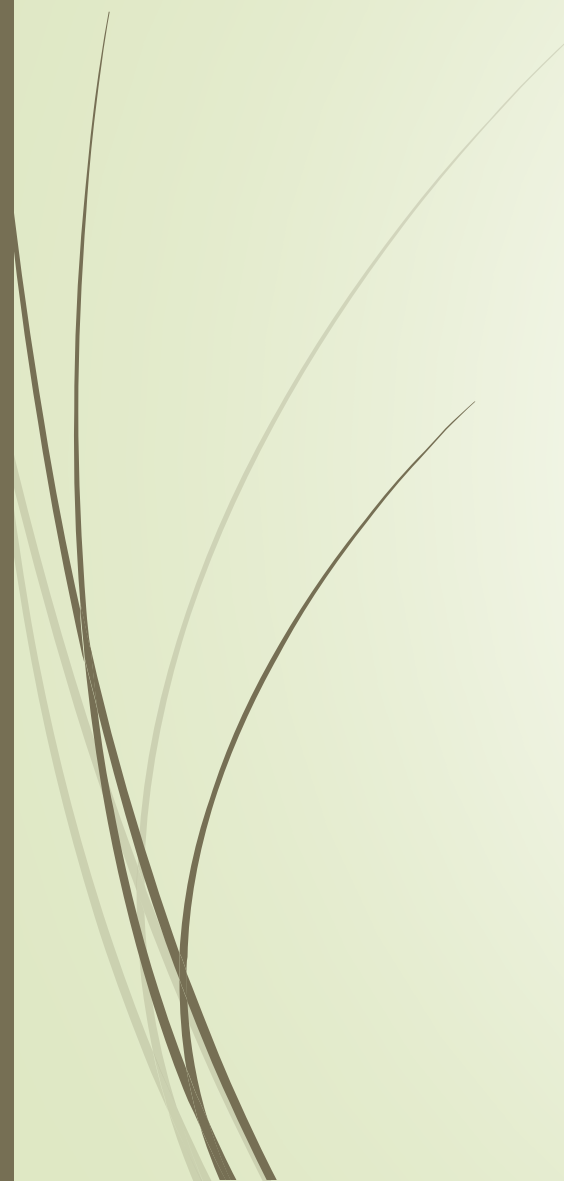
Bus Route	Description	Pickups	Contractor	Start Location
Start Time	Route Set	Dropoffs	AM Driver	End Location
End Time	Anchor	Transfers On	Midday Driver	
Route Time	Days	Transfers Off	PM Driver	
Anchor Sit Time	Overnight Gar.	Loads: Max Wgt	Route Pair	Package Number
	Midday Gar.	Largest Bus Capacity		

Active Command: None



Notes to Consider for additional changes

- New Market times will not match up with our HS bell times in AM and PM.
New Market times:
 - *AM Session 7:50am - 10:20am*
 - *PM Session 11:10am - 1:40pm*
- Sports Impact - HS
 - Athletes may lose more class time to leave earlier for sports.
 - May not work with the leagues they play on
 - Could be competing for fields with our own Middle Schools.
- Field Trips
 - Best time for trips will be 9:30 am – 1:15pm
 - Limited availability for extra buses after 1:15 pm
- ELL – Changes in shuttle and direct transport
- AMS – Changes in shuttle for AM
- B&G – Can now possibly provide bus service for all schools



Current Additional Services Provided			Changes due to proposed model:	
Pick ups prior to 6:30am	321		Pick ups prior to 6:30am	591
Drop off after 4:45 pm	137		Drop off after 4:45 pm	235
			Eased bus loads at	NTHS
				RRHS
				LKES - AM
				PGES - AM
			Opportunity to revise routes for better efficiency & even loads	ALL SCHOOLS



Thank you

Questions?

