



High School Start Time Advisory

January 7, 2019

6:00 pm, Conference Room

Facilitators- Christina Holt/Anna Stubblefield

In Attendance:

Charlotte Anderson, Justin Anderson, Sandy Beverly, Jay Buzhardt, Monica Dittmer, Matt Ellis, Cynthia Eubanks, Laurie Folsom, Julie Henry, Rick Henry, Rick Ingram, Christina Holt, Syed, Kamal, Peter Karman, Mark Pruet, Sam Rabiola, Valerie Schrag, Joan Stone, Allison Smith, Anna Stubblefield

Participated via ZOOM: none

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions (Christina/Anna)
- Review of group norms (Christina)
- Overview of agenda. Plan to review Focus Group Information and determine next step. Timeline and feasibility important considerations. Schedule next meeting to review data from surveys.

Group Discussion-

Anna Stubblefield: Reviewed the surveys and other documents from Patron Insight. Copies were distributed at the meeting (copies of these Patron Insight surveys were also emailed to all members). Members of the Committee were also asked to take a "Straw Poll" survey. We will discuss the results.

Rick Ingram: Created his own document with consolidation of information he thought was beneficial to the group.

Valerie Schrag: Concerned that Rick's document was not beneficial because it did not include staff results. Staff is an important element in this decision? Isn't staff opinion important?

Rick Ingram: Rick agreed that staff was important but his research was from the parent and student survey. Rick presented the charts and information from his document.

Valerie Schrag: Asks the group to please look at page 57 and review the results.

Julie Henry: Confirmed results and page 29.

Valerie Schrag: One flaw in the survey is that it did not give participants a chance to rank their choices - this was not an option and it may have made a difference,

Allison Smith: Feels like the results can all be interpreted various ways depending on your views.

Anna Stubblefield: The data is there and open for discussion. The data is split so it is hard to determine a clear decision. Take a moment to read the comments and you will see folks want options. The phone survey indicated that people were adverse to change because they are unsure how this change will impact their families/schedules. Time change is what is best for kids per data but how do we give options?

Valerie Schrag: Staff results emphasize giving students choices. Create an environment that is positive. Related a scenario of how one teacher takes the beginning of each day to connect with students. A "Redesign" might take another year. A schedule with options would create many new details that would have to be worked out (LEA, Contracts, staffing). Creating options would blend well with the district goals. Trauma informed care.

Rick Ingram: Some families do not have school as a priority.

Cynthia Eubanks: Agrees that yes, the data is known about sleep BUT many obstacles need to be considered and how this affects families... We can not do a disservice to students and adopt a new time change that might create more issues. There are really many things to consider.

Mark Pruett: Wants to impress upon the group the level of frustration with staff this year. It is off the charts. We can not simply disregard their voice and opinion on this topic.

Julie Henry: Want to be clear. A structural change is an issue.

Rick Ingram: The fact is a majority of students did wish for a change. This time change topic has been a 3 year long issue.

Valerie Schrag: Disagreed with Rick. The Committee has only meet this year. Not 3 years.

Allison Smith: What meeting is Rick talking about?

Rick Ingram: Agreed that it had not been a formal meeting but the topic has been an issue for several years. He would have organized the process differently and has public meeting first and then formed a committee.

Anna Stubblefield: All is valid. Is there room for change? What will it look like? Can we have a clear plan / timeline, phase. Ground work would need to take place. A 6 period day might

capture our goal without out losing funding. We would also have to look at the transition grades so credits would work out. Can we recommend to the board a plan or a committee?

Cynthia Eubanks: Please describe a 6 period day?

Anna Stubblefield: These are components we would have to work out with the state.

Cynthia Eubanks: Could the students 7th hour be on line? Is that an option?

Anna Stubblefield: These are components to work out with the State.

Peter Karman: How many late start schools does the district have?

Anna Stubblefield: Listed the elementary schools and the 2 hybrid schools.

Peter Karman: Can we talk about the straw poll?

Christina Holt: Reviewed the results of the "Straw Poll" no change was the favor.

Peter Karman: To him it is not a clear recommendation. Can we say to the Board we have no recommendation?

Jay Buzzard: We have come this far. We should make a recommendation.

Rick Ingram: What is being asked for is a variety of options. Feels like we should follow the science and make a change. Every district that has made the change has had to deal with the fall-out. That always comes with change.

Julie Henry: Whenever change happens there is always fall out. Years ago when the district changed the Wednesday schedule it was very ugly. People were upset. There was not talk it was simply announced and everyone was upset, parents and staff. Change is difficult.

Rick Ingram: Spoke about sleep and science indicating the value to students.

Cynthia Eubanks: I would once again like it noted that we need to consider "ALL" areas and not only look at the "sake of our children". I do not wish to diminish the sake of our children but there are all sorts of issues at stake. Do not wish to adopt a new time and try to work out the problems later.

Valerie Schrag: I would like to propose a recommendation for vote. All information indicates the families are looking for a variety of choices. No change for now. Redesign for 2020/2021. Recommends we have a common ground. This is a large puzzle with many pieces. Yes, to a late start but not end late.

Allison Smith: Second the vote

Rick Ingram: Redesign?

Julie Henry: We need an organization plan.

Rick Ingram: I feel like we have already reviewed this information.

Sam Rabiola: A “Redesign” will require a teacher buy in. Teacher approval will be a key component. We can’t ignore the current feedback.

Several people talking at once indicating the data is simply not clear for any one decision.

Julie Henry: Just a suggestion to throw out. How about a gradual time change?

Mark Pruett: No, that is only pulling the band-aid off a little at a time.

Laurie Folsom: While her personal view is different from the teacher view. We must give consideration to the teacher view. This year has been tough. Too many changes, too many projects, disorganized and incomplete. PowerSchool has not been an easy transition. Please give respect and give time. This might be different if it is well planned.

Allison Smith: I work in Topeka and it would be easier to live in Topeka but I live here because the schools and staff are the best. Teachers are amazing. We can’t risk losing staff. I agree with Valerie Schragg and feel like a staggered start, redesign for 2020 is the best option. Make a formal decision in 2020.

Jay Buzzard: I agree with Allison. I have been a teacher, it is the hardest job in the world. My family also lives here because the education is the best. Teachers in Lawrence are the best. We do have to consider all sides.

Sandy Beverly: Wish to confirm this vote will explore implementation options and provide clarity?

Mark Pruett: We do need a plan for options.

Sam Rabiola: Flexibility or Late Start? Listen to the community and staff.

Rick Henry: Before we vote on this we need to make sure we follow up on this. Agreed?

Christina Holt: This is the recommendation the committee voted upon and approved tonight:

We affirm the benefits of a later start time. Recognizing the community is calling for an array of options to meet their needs, we recommend a committee continues to meet (starting now) to

look at broader issues, including, but not limited to, a staggered start time, redesign, a later start time but not a later ending time and an extended school year, seminar, with implementation in August 2020.

- Teacher level of frustration "off the charts" this year; not in favor of the change
- If we made change now and did staggered start later, would that be damaging to trust of constituents?
- Majority of students & parents support a change
- This dialogue has been going on for 3.5 yrs (this committee since June)
- Could have done public meetings first
- Could we allow jrs/srs to start late (if enough hrs) while we study implementation of staggered start

- Six period day? Would need more time to³ articulate what this looks like. Leverage online time (but can't impact funding)
- There is already precedent for schools in Lawrence starting later than 8:00, but elem. schools that have late start have BGC before school
- No "slam dunk" answers
- Could this group give no rec.?
- Let's break down
- Other options: "More study needed"
Options between 8:30-9, staggered start

- Could put together a mitigation committee⁴ if rec. a change
- Will need to evaluate any change
- Can't forget the concerns of the teachers and the families, need a better handle on the problems
- What about looking at implementation beyond 2019? (redesign, staggered start?), start later but don't end later; make school year longer)
- Would need immediate plan to continue the work
- Big systematic changes will take a lot of time
- Redesign: teacher buy-in will be a key component. Can't ignore current feedback

- What about incrementally starting 10 min. later each year for X yrs?⁵
- The # of things faculty have been asked to "make work" (eg, Power School) too much "building the plane as its flying". Give the process some time to be planned well.

- Data very strongly support a later start time ~~We recommend a later start time in conjunction with additional instructional changes~~

Motion: a comm. continues to meet (starting now) to look at the broader issues, inc. but not limited to staggered start, redesign, longer school yr, seminar) with imp. in August 2020

"This requires further study"

We affirm the benefits of a later start time ~~(2020)~~

recognizing the Community calling for array of options to meet their needs (see 4-2)

Reflections

- Staggered start time?
- We know science says later start better for students, but opinions split
- Choices in line with trauma-informed care
- Cost to students of waiting
- Look at this in context of restructure?
- So many obstacles to overcome, need careful consideration before implementation of change

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