

Red Wing Public Schools
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School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: School Starting and Ending Times
 Contact(s):
 Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
 Board Information or Report

Background Information

Overall Transportation Plans for 2021-22

- “No Bus Zones” for students in grades K-6 will be lowered from 2 miles to 1 mile. Older students will still have a 2-mile walk zone.
- There will be few, if any, transfer buses. In general, this means shorter bus rides for many students, fewer discipline issues, and fewer concerns about students as they move from one bus to another in a busy parking lot.
- A two-tier system will be used. This means a bus drops off students at a school and then runs another route to pick up other students. The system reduces the number of drivers and buses needed but requires staggered school starting and ending times.

Previous Committee and Board Discussions

Information about school starting and ending times has been discussed on multiple occasions at the board or committee level:

<p>Agenda Committee June 1, 2021 Bryant and Roe in Attendance</p> <p>Meeting notes are attached. Meetings are not recorded or livestreamed.</p>	<p>The committee discussed including the transportation contract and starting and ending times for school in the upcoming agenda.</p> <p>There was discussion about starting high school students before elementary students due to student athletics.</p>
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<p>Operations Committee June 7, 2021 Bryant, Diercks, and Tift in Attendance</p> <p>Meeting notes are attached. Video discussion starts at 1:44:00</p>	<p>Committee notes included the following:</p> <p>“Sara Houle, Executive Vice President of Transportation with CESO presented a first draft of a proposal by First Student for student transportation services beginning with the 2021-22 school year to accommodate a two-tier routing system along with a two-year extension for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. This item will be presented to the full board at the June 7 School Board meeting.”</p>
<p>School Board Meeting June 7, 2021 All members in attendance</p> <p>Meeting notes are attached. Video discussion starts at 1:44:20.</p>	<p>During the discussion, there were references to student athletes missing class with the current schedule, a desire by elementary principals to lengthen the student day by 15-30 minutes, a need to reduce the budget by implementing a 2-tier system, and references to a tentative first rough draft of starting and ending times. Paul Hartmann presented a rationale for starting the high school before elementary schools.</p> <p>The following motions were approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion made by Tift seconded by Ostendorf to authorize the Superintendent or designee to finalize an addendum to the current transportation contract to reflect terms in First Student’s proposal as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 7-0. 2. Motion made by Bryant seconded by Tauer to authorize the Superintendent and Administrators to determine starting times based on the 6/7/21 board discussion for the 2021-22 school year with the High School starting first as discussed. Motion carried 6-1 (Diercks voted no).
<p>School Board Meeting July 19, 2021 All members in attendance.</p> <p>Meeting notes are attached. Video discussion starts at 08:30.</p>	<p>During Administrative Reports, the Superintendent discussed school attendance zones and starting and ending times noting that the latest version shows a 7:50 start for high school students, a start time for elementary students shortly after 9:00, and dismissal time for elementary students at 4:10.</p>

Consultation and Revisions

On June 7th, the following rough draft of starting and ending times was presented to the Operations Committee and School Board:

- Elementary Schools: 8:55-3:25
- High School: 7:45-2:30

Questions about high school students starting at 7:45 am prompted the development of a draft schedule with an 8:00 am start time for RWHS. This version was not selected because of the following reasons:

- CESO indicated a need for 1:20 between buses at the end of the day instead of 0:55 minutes.
- Elementary principals requested an instructional day of 6:45 instead of 6:30.
- The high school principal requested an instructional day of 7:00 instead of 6:45 to accommodate teachers who “cross-over” between 7th-8th and 9th-12th grade schedules.

After multiple iterations of starting and ending times based on additional administrative team feedback, a schedule was emailed to parents on July 21st:

- Elementary Schools: 9:25-4:10
- High School: 7:50-2:50

Parents and others expressed significant concerns about the plan, largely because of the starting and ending times for the elementary schools. The Superintendent consulted again with building and district leaders to develop the following options:

Version A

School	Parent & Bus Drop-Off	First Bell	Student Day	Parent & Bus Pick-Up
Colvill	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Elementary Schools	Parents—9:10-9:20 Busses—9:15	9:15	9:25-4:10	Parents—4:10-4:20 Bus—4:05
Red Wing High School	Parents--7:35-7:45 Busses—7:40		7:50-2:50	Parents—2:50-3:00 Bus—2:45

Note: Principals will issue drop-off and pick-up procedures for their school.

Version B

School	Parent & Bus Drop-Off	First Bell	Student Day	Parent & Bus Pick-Up
Colvill	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Elementary Schools	Parents—8:40-8:50 Buses—8:45	8:45	8:55-3:40	Bus—3:45 (approx.)
Red Wing High School	Parents—7:30-7:40 Buses—7:35		7:45-2:30	Bus—2:25

Note: Principals will issue drop-off and pick-up procedures for their school.

Version C

School	Parent & Bus Drop-Off	First Bell	Student Day	Parent & Bus Pick-Up
Colvill	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Elementary Schools	Buses—7:40	7:40	7:50-2:35	Bus—2:30
Red Wing High School	Buses—8:50		8:50-3:50	Bus—3:45

Note: Principals will issue drop-off and pick-up procedures for their school.

Version B is recommended for the following reasons:

- The school board selected a 2-tier system to provide the most efficient transportation system.
- On June 7th, the school board approved starting high school students first largely because it minimizes the loss of instructional time by student athletes. Some high school students also work after school. Paul Hartmann summarized the potential loss of instructional time for student-athletes:

	Estimated instructional time lost by teams in Fall, 2021-22	Estimated instructional time lost by teams in Winter, 2021-22
If Version B is used...	540 minutes	60 minutes
If Version C is used...	4220	2920

- Having an earlier start for high school students allows student-athletes to be home earlier if they have practice or a game. In turn, this benefits participants in youth activities using facilities after sports teams
- As requested by elementary principals, the elementary student day is longer than the previous school year.
- Times for elementary schools are similar to schedules in previous years before a one-tier system was implemented. For example, a common schedule at Burnside was 9:00 or 9:05 until 3:30.

In order for elementary students to start 30 minutes earlier than the original plan, some changes were made to Version A. For example, the high school shortened the planned length of the instructional day by 15 minutes. In addition, buses will arrive at the elementary after the end of the student day; elementary staff will change procedures to accommodate.

Recommendation

I move to approve the school starting and ending times for 2021-22 as presented in Version B.