

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
New Fairfield High School Start & End Time Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: NFHS Start & End Time Ad Hoc

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 1/5/23

Minutes submitted by: Tim Blair

Members present: Kathy Baker, Tim Blair, Ed Sbordone

Member absent: Kim LaTourette

Other attendees: Ken Craw, Dominic Cipollone

Place of meeting: New Fairfield Community Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Motion: To nominate Kathy Baker as chair of this committee

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Tim Blair

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - none

IV. ACTION ITEMS - none

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. NFHS Start and End Time Task Force Update

Dr. Craw began by giving reasons for the idea of potentially moving start times to later in the morning. Currently, New Fairfield has one of the earliest high school start times in the state, and data shows there is many positives for students getting the potential to have extra rest and positives in giving educators more time to plan. This data shows improved outcomes in many cases. Dr. Craw indicated this community is well positioned to make this change.

There was discussion with some of the parents present on how their current students have indicated they liked the earlier start times for reasons of getting out earlier. One parent also indicated that the earlier start times often help the working parent, as they can get to work on time when their kids are already in class. Another parent indicated as a professional that there is plenty of data that shows getting more rest is beneficial to students. Another who is also a teacher indicated the change for teachers and coaches should be considered as well since there is a significant number of them who would need to adjust other obligations, such as second jobs.

Kathy Baker reminded the parents this was an initial meeting and Dominic Cipollone indicated the data is clear on the benefits for potential extra rest in students and we need to consider this. A parent asked if there was any data on the potential negatives of a later start time. A question was asked if there would be a possibility to implement any early morning clubs/activities with this new start time.

Dr. Craw also talked about the 3rd party traffic study that will be conducted once the new school is complete to measure the impact of changing the traffic patterns at that time of the morning.

V. OTHER – Kathy Baker indicated the next meeting would be on 3/2.

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Tim Blair

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 6:41 p.m.