

This meeting will be held at the Education Service Center Boardroom and also online via Zoom. The public is welcome to join the meeting via Zoom.

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School Board of Robbinsdale Area Schools

Work Session – April 6, 2021

AGENDA SECTION: Work Session

ITEM: 1. School Start Times Update

COMMENTS BY: Toya Stewart Downey, Executive Director of Strategic Communications, Equity & Inclusion; John Groenke, Sandburg Middle School Principal

The School Board will have an opportunity to hear an update from the School Start Times Steering Committee. The committee's charge was to collaborate with our colleagues and the community to gather information, data and research to help guide the Board's decision as to when the Board will implement the new start times. An opportunity for Q & A will take place during the allotted time on the agenda.



School Start Times Steering Committee Feedback

John Groenke and Toya Stewart Downey
April 2021



Communications

Leads: Toya Stewart Downey, Jodi Fiedler
Champions: Shannon Swanson, Derrick Williams

Communications

Concerns to consider

- Need time to develop a thorough communications plan to ensure high-quality and robust communication with all stakeholder groups
- Effectively communicating continued changes after the pandemic

Challenges

- Translations turn-around time
- Communicating this major change with other potential large-scale district changes including (transportation, online learning/RVA, enrollment and marketing campaigns)
- Small staff with a lot to communicate

Communications

Possible Solutions

- Hire an experienced communications professional to help with start times communications

Opportunities

- Provide the public with information to help them understand the change

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

Yes - having additional time allows us to be more planful in our communications, and thoroughly communicated to all stakeholder groups.



Athletics & Activities, Childcare / Adventure Club

Leads: Dr. Kristine Wehrkamp, Wilbur Winkelman
Champions: Larry Tate, John Oelfke, Missy Laatsch, Elementary APs



ROBBINSDALE
Area Schools

Athletics & Activities

Concerns to consider

Coaches/Staffing

Facilities Usage

MS students playing up

Middle school morning activity possibilities

Challenges

Finding coaches

Sharing facilities with community

Missed classes

Financial impact of additional middle school activities

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

No, but an additional year would provide for preparation/planning time



Athletics & Activities

Possible Solutions

Elementary teachers and RAS Alumni

Meet with community members to schedule practices

Individualized schedules for athletes playing up - case by case basis

Opportunities

Opportunities for new coaches who were unable to coach before

More specific attention for student scheduling

Additional opportunities for middle school student enrichment activities

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

No, but an additional year would provide for preparation/planning time



ROBBINSDALE
Area Schools

Childcare/Adventure Club

Concerns to consider

Staffing (if dramatic increase in registrations)

Space needs (if dramatic increase in registrations)

Families may not be able to afford Adventure Club, yet need care

Challenges

Afternoon staffing constraints

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

Yes, additional time allows for a comprehensive staffing plan



ROBBINSDALE
Area Schools

Childcare/Adventure Club

Possible Solutions

Offer additional hours to current part-time staff

Two-tiered afternoon pick-up rates for additional affordability

Change the criteria for CCAP qualifications, so additional families qualify

Opportunities

Pairing Adventure Club positions with other District positions

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

No, they are the same



Safety & Transportation

Leads: Dr. Lowell Holtz, Nicole Meyer-Johnson
Champions: Leia Ward, Anne Grui

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Safety & Transportation

Concerns to consider

- Safety of students - lack of sidewalks, sunrise/sunset times, pick up/drop locations

Challenges

- Sidewalks are a city issue
- Ensuring routes avoid high traffic stops
- Driver shortage
- Implementation of a new bus tracking system (March 2021)

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

- Concerns and challenges are not bound by time

Safety & Transportation

Possible Solutions

- Adjust start time for elementary slightly - moving closer to 8:00 am start will reduce the number of students impacted by twilight hours
- Adjust routes to avoid high traffic stops, prioritize stops with streetlights
- SEA/RSI stay at later start time - these are our longest routes

Opportunities

- Partnership with cities for safe bus stops
- Partnership with Safe Routes to School to identify neighborhood champions
- The bus tracking app was rolled out in March 2021 and is a consideration in the new RFP

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

- Some opportunities will take more time to develop with city and county partners



Staff: Non-Licensed

Leads: Amy O'Hern, Anh Tran
Champions: Judie Bomchill, Jeffrey Goodwine

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Staff: Non-Licensed

Concerns to consider

- Impacts Program Assistants, Clerical, Nutrition Services, Custodians, Educational Assistants
- Staff may make decisions regarding applying for positions based on starting time due to childcare, work situations, etc.

Challenges

- Scheduling constraints for staff with multiple jobs within the district or out of district

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

- No, staff need to be informed of start times by May 1 regardless of implementation year (prior to staffing timeline, allows for planning over the summer)

Staff: Non-Licensed

Possible Solutions

- Implement time changes in the 22-23 school year to provide adequate time to address changes

Opportunities

- Some elementary EAs may be able to coach or provide academic support at secondary



Staff: Licensed

Leads: Amy O'Hern, Anh Tran

Champions: Peter Eckhoff, Frederico Rowe, Nancy Froelich,
Jeffrey Stovall

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Staff: Licensed

Concerns to consider

- Adequate time for staff to adjust to changes including child care, second jobs, etc.
- Duty day schedules may need to be adjusted in addition to start time changes

Challenges

- Scheduling issues for staff with multiple assignments across buildings and levels (*coaches, shared staff, itinerant staff, Gifted Teaching Specialist, EL, SPED, etc.*)
- Potential as yet unknown COVID impacts on enrollment/staffing including Distance Learning needs

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

- Staffing for the 21-22 school year is completed by March 26 with pools opening April 7 → potential contractual issues if assignment schedules change significantly
- Implementing school year 2022-2023 allows additional time to:
 - Determine staffing, transportation, family plans, Adventure Club, Early Childhood programming, Athletics/Activities, etc.
 - Communication of thoroughly developed proactive plans, time for community to adjust.

Staff: Licensed

Possible Solutions

- Implement time changes in the 22-23 school year to provide adequate time to address changes in personal and professional life.

Opportunities

- Elementary teachers could support co-curricular activities



Staff: Specials

Lead: Bridget Hall
Champions: Carla Reeck, Sarah Prindeville

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Staff: Specials

Concerns to consider

- Impacts specialists which encompass Music, Physical Education, Art, Orchestra, Band, Choir, Media, Computer Science, and Spanish teachers.
- Potential as yet unknown COVID impacts on enrollment/staffing, Distance Learning needs

Challenges

- Scheduling issues for staff with multiple assignments across buildings/levels (coaches, shared staff, itinerant staff, etc.)
- Elementary specialists may need to work across three busing tiers.

Staff: Specials

Possible Solutions

- Consider morning co-curricular activities to off set some afternoon activities
- Elementary Schools could increase the amount of after school activities

Opportunities

- Flexibility for high school students to participate in co-curricular activities and a part time job

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out?

- It is the same as with licensed staff.



Family & Community Engagement

Leads: Dr. Heather Hanson, Shirrie Jackson, Leslie Gentner - AHS parent
Champions: Randy Moberg, Latisha Lowe

Family & Community Engagement

- Family and community engagement meetings offered robust discussion about School Start Times and other issues affecting families.
- The subcommittee held four meetings in English; Somali and Spanish affinity group meetings were led by the Family and Community Engagement Specialists.

Family & Community Engagement

Considerations

Childcare and Activities

- Concern about space and staffing, enrollment window and cost.
- Loss of older siblings for supervision.
- Families do not want high school co-curriculars to move to before school.

Transportation

- Keep elementary start times in the same tier or within 30-45 minutes.
- Consider transportation for Elementary after-school activities.

Challenges

- Families feel apprehensive about this change in addition to COVID challenges, distance learning and only recently returning to in-person learning.

Family & Community Engagement

Opportunities

- Communicate thoroughly and in multiple languages
- Help families understand “the why” and the benefits of this change.
- Continued engagement / feedback loops with families

Do these change based on which school year the new times are implemented?

Families in attendance overwhelmingly voiced that they want to wait until Fall 2022.

Waiting allows for time to be proactive and solution-focused based on identified student, family and staff considerations.

However, most high school families in attendance are eager for the later start time for their students.



Students

Lead: Tamuriel Grace

Champions: Aiysha Mustapha, Charles Vickers,
Donna Gingery, Katie Crowley

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Students

Concerns to consider

- Getting out of school later
 - Younger siblings being home alone
 - Homework concerns
 - Academic/ Athletic programs at the high school
 - Cultural Concerns
 - Medical Concerns
 - PSEO Concerns
 - Impact on student employment
-

Students

Challenges

- Public Transportation (PSEO)
- Buses breaking down (open enrolled students)
- Younger Siblings will get home earlier
- Responsibilities at home
- Time management for students
- Ongoing Pandemic Challenges, and need for consistency

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out? More time will allow students and parents to make adjustments

Students

Possible Solutions

- More concurrent enrollment courses offered at the high schools
- Middle School before school activities
- Time management instruction and strategies added to advisory and classes
- Accommodating schedules

Opportunities

- Students would like to participate actively and intentionally in the planning process for the 21/22 school year.
- Representatives from the middle and high student councils would like to be apart of the planning process and implementation for the 22/23 school year.

Do these change based on which school year the new times are rolled out? An additional year provides more student voice with the planning and implementation process.



Wrap up

John Groenke and Toya Stewart Downey

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Feedback Methods

There have been multiple opportunities to share ideas and feedback, including:

- Subcommittee meetings
- Email
- Let's Talk
- School Board listening sessions
- World Cafe community discussions (2019-2020 school year)
- Surveys (2019-2020 school year)

Considerations

Through this process and work of the nine subcommittees, the feedback indicated that overall people would like an additional year to plan and prepare.

While we heard from some who favor changing start times this fall, the majority of stakeholders in this process said a one-year delay would be beneficial.

Questions?





School Board of Robbinsdale Area Schools

Work Session – April 6, 2021

AGENDA SECTION: Work Session

ITEM: 2. District Update

COMMENTS BY: Dr. Stephanie Burrage, Interim Superintendent

The School Board will have an opportunity to hear current district updates from Dr. Burrage. An opportunity for Q & A will take place during the allotted time on the agenda.



School Board of Robbinsdale Area Schools

Work Session – April 6, 2021

AGENDA SECTION: Work Session

ITEM: 3. Other

COMMENTS BY: David Boone, Chair

The School Board will have an opportunity to review and discuss during the allotted time on the agenda:

1. Revisiting Board norms
2. Parking lot survey results

School Board Parking Lot (February 2021)

Robbinsdale Area Schools School Board

Parking Lot Survey - February 2021

School Board Members ~ Thank you for taking a few minutes to identify your top three topics from the Parking Lot for future work session discussion.

Please pick your top three topics: *

- Governance & Bylaws Review - Equity Audit
- Board Calendar: Addition of academic progress monitoring, alignment with Supt/Board goals
- Administrative Procedure 714 - Discussion on fund balance
- Role of SABE
- Unfunded student lunch balances/debt
- School Enrollment Policy - Magnet School Enrollment
- FAC Discussion, 2017 to discuss and review how they operate and how the board best utilizes this council
- Green Energy
- Community Schools
- Other:

If you checked "other", please indicate what other topic(s) would you like to have included on the parking lot?

- Send me a copy of my responses.

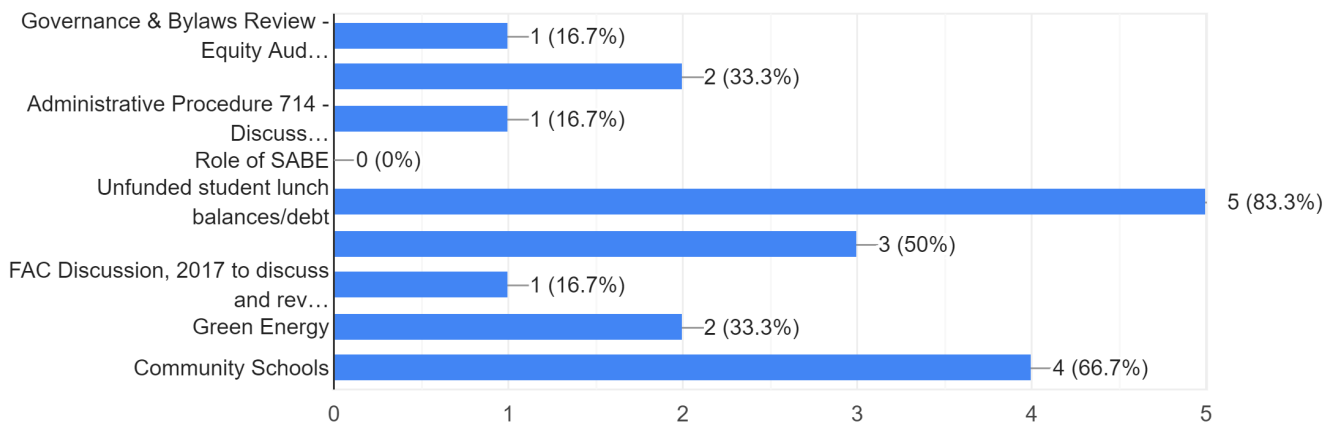
Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

Results:

Unfunded student lunch balances/debt Green Energy Community Schools
School Enrollment Policy - Magnet School Enrollment Green Energy Community Schools
Board Calendar: Addition of academic progress monitoring - alignment with Supt/Board goals Unfunded student lunch balances/debt School Enrollment Policy - Magnet School Enrollment Community Schools
Governance & Bylaws Review - Equity Audit Unfunded student lunch balances/debt FAC Discussion, 2017 to discuss and review how they operate and how the board best utilizes this council
Administrative Procedure 714 - Discussion on fund balance Unfunded student lunch balances/debt School Enrollment Policy - Magnet School Enrollment
Board Calendar: Addition of academic progress monitoring, alignment with Supt/Board goals, Unfunded student lunch balances/debt, Community Schools
Administrative Procedure 714 - Discussion on fund balance Unfunded student lunch balances/debt Community Schools

Please pick your top three topics:

6 responses



- 6 = unfunded student lunch balances/debt
- 4 = community schools
- 3 = school enrollment policy - magnet school enrollment