

Focus 203
November 17, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Task #1: Biggest “Takeaway”

Table 1

- Our biggest takeaway is that teacher, parents and students agree that sleep and health/academics is the greatest benefit to adjusting the school day.

Table 2

- We were pleasantly surprised by the results and level of support for a later start time.

Table 3

- Extended time is supported across all levels and students health and sleep must be carefully considered
- All beliefs supported by data.

Table 4

- Student health & safety is the most important concern for all levels.

Table 5

- Majority supported late start of school day for middle school and high school.
- Health and academics performance ranked highest for factors that would affect the outcome.

Table 6

- All stakeholders value putting students health and academic performance first.

Table 7

- The data raises more questions about the differences in each level, and actual impact of changing.
- Does the late start really address an improvement in students health and increased sleep or will habits merely shift?

Table 8

- High school day starting later.
- Extending the elementary day.

Table 9

- Community is open to change, this change in start time appears to be a positive change and we should explore the options to make this happen.

Table 10

- Health and sleep/wellness – first priority across all categories.
- Academic progress – second priority across all categories.

Table 11

- Students health and sleep – majority voted for this – staff, students, community – leads to late start at 8:30 in the high school.

Table 12

- Overwhelming support for later start times at MS/HS.
- Parents support extending elementary day (employees evenly split) but only employee perspective of how additional time would be used was presented. So, does parent perspective of the use of extra time match?

Table 13

- Table was surprised there was such strong support of later start date – thought no one would want it due to impact on after school and family activities.
- Extending day for elementary for little kids – isn't the day long enough?

Table 14

- Are we losing time at high school with late start (shorter class periods) are we really getting more sleep for students?
- What will this look like for transportation? Does this mean more district employees..... more busses?.....Higher taxes?

Task #2: Priorities & Challenges

Priorities

1. Later start for middle /HS because of health / wellness benefits.
2. Financial: Teacher salaries, bussing other costs, etc.
3. Clearly define what the extra time in elementary looks like.

1. Health (physical & emotional) & wellness of students.
2. Elementary day structured to allow for collaboration.
3. Roll out at a pace to allow consideration of all potential repercussions.

1. Health and Social – emotional wellbeing of students.
2. Balanced semesters @ h.s.
3. Finals finish before break.

1. Teacher directed collaborative time.
2. Ensure academic standards are maintained or improved.
3. Additional instruction time is target and valued to new curriculum.

1. Students' wellbeing.
2. Academic achievement/performance.
3. Professional collaboration time.

1. Ensure a comprehensive approach is used and that student perspective is weighted less.
2. Balance to ensure teachers can be effective (balance in collaboration and planning).
3. Balance for students schedules (balance between home and school/ clubs and activities.)

1. Social – emotional wellbeing availability of down time and application outside of school.
2. Improve transportation schedule to be more efficient and family life.
3. Teacher feedback and all perspectives heard as changes are implemented.

1. Learning.
2. Maximizing instruction.
3. Balance

1. Pursue later start for middle and high school.
2. Pursue longer instruction time for elementary school.
3. Allow time for high school and elementary school teachers to collaborate.

1. Teacher collaboration to promote student learning.
2. Extracurricular activities with the social emotional learning to benefit whole school experience.
3. Health and wellness of all parties involved.

1. Lenses of decision making.
2. Well balanced approach to serving kids best which includes: health, sleep, outside activities, etc.
3. Academic performance of students.
4. Respecting family life.

1. Health of students and academic achievement – decisions/recommendations should mesh with current research.
2. Ensure use of additional time directly benefits students – instruction and collaboration.
3. Maintaining D203 history of financial responsibility.

1. Health/Safety of students.
2. Academic progress.

3. After school activities – keeping in mind not all students activities are associated with school.
1. Are we really getting more sleep risking instructional time?
2. Consider the cost of the tax payers for transportation.

Challenges to Consider:

1. Aligning transportation to the beginning of the day. Minimize wasted student time.
2. Does shifting the school day increase student sleep time? By shifting the day will they really get to bed on time or earlier?
3. How will lengthening of the school day impact family routines and the student's ability to remain engaged and focused?

1. Cost (staffing, buses, assistants, etc.)
2. Impact on working parents (child care). May impact staff and parents.
3. Alignment of sports, music, speech, etc. within our conference, working students.

1. Transportation – cost to district for busses and drivers.
2. Impact on before school activities and after school sports.
3. Use extra time in a beneficial manner.

1. Ensuring changes are consistent with the contract.
2. What would be the costs of proposed changes? (salaries, buses, etc.)
3. Benefiting the health of all age groups.

1. Bus transportation system / budget impact.
2. Family schedules / parent work schedules.
3. Extracurricular activities / sports (outdoor especially)
4. W/O extra time for instruction (in elementary schools) how can the needs be met for more teaching time when standards have gone up.

1. Ensure right factors drive our decisions.
2. Extra-curricular activities.
3. Transportation concerns.

1. How will the proposed changes affect all students; those with IEPs, medical challenges, emotional challenges?
2. Will proposed changes add unanticipated stressors to students?
3. Will changes add unstructured time for students leading to SEL issues?

1. Learning.
2. Maximizing Instruction.
3. Balance.
 1. For change of start time, the main challenge would be transportation including traffic (close to rush hour) and coordination for middle and high school start times so that they do not start at the same time.
 2. Allowing collaboration time at the elementary school, if would be finding a way to continue instruction for children while collaboration is on-going.
 3. For change start time, the challenge will be budgeting and finance for the additional busing and staff costs.

1. Traffic flow issues related to starting later. Will this create more time on buses for students because of increased traffic @ later times?
2. Students arrive at high school too early currently without sufficient supervision.
3. All demographics are not represented in the feedback and not all students are demonstrating the stamina for the current school day, especially at the elementary level.

1. Logistics – bus, athletics, teacher contract, staffing.
2. Ripple effect – unknowns.
3. Do we have enough feedback from all stakeholders? Is the survey valid?

1. Cost / logistics to implement (transportation) Minimize on-campus, non-instructional time for students.
2. Impact on extracurricular activities.
3. Employee versus parent perspective for use of additional time.

1. After School Activities – keeping in mind not all students activities are at the school.
2. Younger students – elem – to extend day may be too long for stamina.
3. Transportation – activities and to and from school.

1. How to further validate that students will gain more sleep?
2. Transportation logistics – 2 schools starting at the same time.
3. Cost for transportation, teacher salaries

Task #3: Other....

- How will elementary extended time be allocated?

- How will we measure the success of this implementation?
- What is the implementation timeline? (look like)
- What will longer elementary day look like?
- Could classes and passing periods be shortened @ HS level to make additional time and offer slightly better start?
- How does the time changes impact businesses?
- What is the cost on transportation dept?
- To what extent has rush hour and effects on transportation been considered while coming up with start and end times?
- What would the additional 30 minutes be used for at the elementary level?
- Is there greater availability of before or after school care?
- Was there sufficient response by parents and the community?
- A large proportion of participants tonight are teachers – does that imbalance feedback?
- Have we looked at other data from other districts?
- Making sure academic support is still offered.
- Who will we measure the success of the change?
- Will a change at one level affect other levels? Does it have to?
- Do the advantages of extending the school day truly outweigh the risk factors and disadvantages?
- At the elementary level, is there a way we can look at how we spend our time (how its' distributed among the subjects)?
- What will be done with the extra time given to the elementary day? What is the purpose?
- What would be the ideal timeline to implement these proposed changes?
- Are there going to be any terms that are not-negotiable?
- Have we looked at other districts that have tried this? How did they solve these challenges?
- Who will be making the final decision?
- We are a community unit district and need to think about what is best for all levels. (high school, junior high school, and elementary)
- How can we professionally collaborate between levels?
- As an option, can additional collaboration time come outside of student attendance/on-campus time? Contract would reflect this.
- Does the research both medical/health support K – 12?
- What would additional time at elementary and MS – what would students be doing during the additional instructional time?
- Should district do some benchmarking and research schools similar to us?

