

**Andover School Committee
Minutes of September 18, 2019 Workshop**

Members in Attendance: Chair, Joel Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Tracey Spruce, Paul Murphy, Susan McCready, Shannon Scully.

Others in Attendance: Sandy Trach, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning.

I. SC Workshop

A. Call to Order 8:00 A.M.

The Chair called the workshop meeting of September 18, 2019 to order at 8:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor meeting room located in Town Offices. The meeting began with a Moment of Silence and a Salute to the Flag.

B. Discussion/Presentation of Results of School Start Time Survey

1. Sandy Trach said the School Start Time (SST) Working Group was tasked with developing potential options for later start times for secondary students and to provide objective information concerning the benefits and drawbacks of various options to the School Committee to enable it to evaluate the feasibility of the potential options so that the School Committee can make an effective decision.

Three potential options were identified by the SST Working Group: the status quo –schools remain on the current start times; the flip option with elementary and secondary flipping start times; and, the shift, with secondary levels to continue to start school first, then elementary, but both start times slide later. At this time, each of these options are transportation cost neutral and each have their merits in meeting the guiding principles set by the School Committee as follows:

1. Impact on well-being of students
2. Impact on family and staff schedules
3. Consultation with the AEA
4. Coordination with other Merrimack Valley Communities

The SST felt it was important to survey grade 4-12 students, faculty and staff, and parents/guardians.

Members of the SST include: Principals Phil Conrad, Patrick Bucco Michelle Costa, Pam Lathrop, Assistant Superintendent Paul Syzmanski, Transportation Coordinator Mary Lu Walsh, Kerry Costello, Communications Director Nicole Kieser and School Committee Member Shannon Scully.

2. Presentation of Survey Results

Sandy introduced Lauren Conoscenti, an Andover parent and volunteer who professionally serves as the Assistant Director of the Office of Institutional Research at Tufts University and specializes in collecting, analyzing and reporting on data.

Lauren provided a detailed analysis of the survey. Her slide presentation can be found on the APS website at:

<http://www.aps1.net/2033/school-start-times-study>

The School Committee expressed its great appreciation for all the work that Lauren did and for the informative data she provided.

3. Next Steps

- Report from contractor on transportation routes and optimization is due at the end of October. Make parents aware of the RFP for analysis of routes and optimization and upon receipt of the transportation report, send out a communication blitz.
- Anchor survey slides to the School Start Time website.
- Re-engage people and have Lauren back to respond to survey results and questions.
- Aggressively assemble a timeline of public forums for parents and the community to engage in and include a comprehensive status update.
- Educate the public about scientific research on sleep for youth.
- Use multiple forms of media, over communicate.
- Make it very clear that Extended Day went into effect this year and that any change in school start time would go into effect in September 2020 at the earliest.
- The majority of the School Committee should be present at the public meetings to hear comments at the same time.

The School Committee is looking to make a decision by the end of November (if possible).

It was agreed that Sandy, Nicole, Shannon and Joel would get together in the near future to map out a communications plan.

C. Adjourn

At 9:22 AM on a motion by Susan McCready seconded by Tracey Spruce the School Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting of September 18, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recorder

Documents: School Start Time Survey Results