

OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Action
 Discussion
 Information

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Brian Busler
DATE: February 24, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: E1 A

INITIATED BY: OSD School Board Charge for School Start and End Times Work Group
SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Leslie Bergstrom

SUPPORTING DATA & PROCESS USED:

On December 16, 2019 Erika Mundinger and Leslie Bergstrom presented information to the Oregon School Board on the school start and end times working plan. The first part of the presentation was comprised of the slidedeck used to inform attendees of the three public informational sessions held. The December 16 presentation also outlined the feedback themes obtained from those who attended the sessions as well as feedback themes from School Leadership Teams, and parent and staff e-mails. Finally, seven school start and end time options were presented in addition to the start and end times working plan presented at the informational sessions. Due to the amount of significant information presented and the numerous school start and end time options currently before the Board, on January 6, 2020 the Board approved a School Start and End Times Work Group charge. Through this charge, the Board sought assistance from a work group to review factual information, to review the school start and end time options presented to the Board and narrow them to a manageable number. The Work Group was comprised of OSD parents, staff, administrators, two School Board members, and a bus contractor. They were a very focused group dedicated to meeting the charge outlined by the Board. The names of Work Group members are listed in Appendix A.

The Work Group met four times between January 28 and February 18. They were two-hour open meetings with time for public comment at the beginning of each meeting.

During meeting 1, the Work Group started the process of establishing a common foundation of relevant and accurate information on which the future recommendation(s) would be made. The Work Group was provided a copy of the School Board charge, the slidedeck from the December 16 presentation to the Board, an OSD attendance boundary map, as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on school start time for adolescents and the Journal of Educational Psychology article - Earlier School Start Times as a Risk Factor for Poor School Performance: An Examination of Public Elementary Schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. At the conclusion of the first meeting the Work Group members were asked to populate a list of additional questions and/or requests for relevant information.

During meeting 2, the Work Group members were presented with the requested additional information. A list of all provided information throughout the process is detailed in Appendix B. Paper copies of all information analyzed by the School Start and End Times Work Group will be provided to OSD Board members at the Board Meeting on February 24, 2020.

During meeting 3, more information was provided on the number of OSD athletes impacted by start and end time changes and additional transportation questions were answered. All members participated in a structured activity to generate additional pros and cons, as well as questions and comments for each of the 8 options

presented to the School Board on December 16. There was also an opportunity to write down other options for the Work Group to consider.

During meeting 4, the Work Group members continued to examine options. The members were also introduced to an additional option prepared and presented by a group member. This option is listed in Appendix B and is located in the binder.

The Work Group was surveyed on the value they place and their willingness to compromise on critical factors in the process. Each member placed a sticker on a continuum of Not Important...Important but Willing to Compromise...Critical. The conclusions drawn from the exercise were as follows:

1. The majority of the Work Group believe grades 7-12 should end their day before 4 pm.
2. The majority of the Work Group believe grades 7-12 should not lose more instructional time than the original working plan which was a 7 hour and 15 minute day.
3. In general the Work Group was more willing to compromise on K-4 start time than K-4 length of day,
4. The majority of the Work Group saw value in the instructional minutes for grades 5 and 6 but were willing to compromise.

Through these lenses, options at no additional cost were reexamined, the new option presented by a Work Group member was considered, and variations of all options were discussed. The group concluded that the solutions will be found in the options that utilized a 45-minute K-6 and 7-12 differential and were at no additional costs above the working plan thus all options that resulted in additional cost were excluded from consideration for the recommendation.

Once it was concluded that the recommendation would include only solutions utilizing a 45-minute start and end time differential, options with 5-10 minute variables on school start and stop times were discussed at length. In the process of that discussion, it was suggested that the Work Group provide the School Board with recommendations on favored, well-reasoned parameters for the decision. Given points 1 and 2 above, the decision-making parameters for grades 7-12 were clear. The Work Group voted on parameters of day length and start times for grades K-6.

K-6 Day Length		K-6 Start Time	
Parameter	Votes	Parameter	Votes
6 hrs and 50 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 minute reduction for grades 5 and 6 • no additional K-4 time 	2	7:50 am	15
6 hrs and 55 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 minute reduction for grades 5 and 6 • 5 minutes additional K-4 time 	3	7:55 am	2
7 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minute reduction for grades 5 and 6 • 10 minutes additional K-4 time 	12		

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION:

The Work Group members were diligent in their analysis of all interrelated factors in the start and end time decisions. They consistently focused on what was best for learners. At the end of our 4 sessions together, the Work Group could not unanimously endorse one specific recommendation. Our recommendation to the Oregon School Board is that the school start and end time solution decided upon by the School Board consider the following:

1. The solution should utilize the 45 minute start time differential between grades K-6 and 7-12. This is the most effective and cost efficient solution for now and as we continue to grow. It also solves the problem of 764 RCI, OMS, and OHS students arriving by bus to school before 7:30 each day. It also solves the RCI and OMS after school bus waiting times that are up to 30 minutes.
2. Grades 7-12 should end before 4 pm. In addition to students in after school clubs and activities, 51% of students at OHS and 43% of students at OMS participate in athletics. Due to a variety of factors, student athletes must miss class at the end of the day to attend meets/games/matches. The later the 7-12 end time, the more class time they miss. Also, a 4 pm end time means Oregon has a school ending time 16 minutes later than any other Dane County High School and 22 minutes later than any Dane County Middle school.
3. Grades 7-12 length of day should not be shorter than 7 hours and 15 minutes. This is already a 5 minute reduction from the current OMS length of day and a 15 minute reduction for OHS. Any further reduction will have a greater negative impact on instruction.
4. Grades K-6 length of day should not be longer than 7 hours and should not start before 7:50 am. The workgroup agreed in aligning the length of day between RCI and the other elementary schools and recognized that doing so means the addition of minutes to existing elementary schools and the subtraction of minutes at RCI. The workgroup varied on the distribution of those minutes, but ultimately believe that RCI is in a better spot to address the greater change in minutes.
 - o The majority of the Work Group favor a 10-minutes increase to existing elementary schools and a 20 minute reduction at RCI for a 7 hour K-6 school day and a 7:50 am K-6 start time. This results in a 7:50 am to 2:50 pm day for students in grades K-6 and an 8:35 am to 3:50 pm day for students in grades 7-12.
 - o A minority of Work Group members favor a 0 or 5-minute increase to existing elementary schools and a 25 or 30 minute reduction at RCI for a 6 hour and 50 minute or 6 hour and 55 minute length of day and a 7:55 start time for K-6. This results in a 7:55 am to 2:45 pm OR 7:55 am to 2:50 pm day for students in grades K-6 and an 8:40 am to 3:55 pm day for students in grades 7-12.

The Work Group sincerely hopes the School Board finds the information in this report to be helpful, in conjunction with parent and staff survey information, when making a final decision on school start and end times.

SUPERINTENDENT: _____

ACTION BY BOARD: Motion: _____ Second: _____ Vote: _____

Revisions, if any _____

Appendix A

School Start Time Work Group
 January 2, 2020

Parents	Staff	Board Members	Administrators
Liz Bush	Mike Ducett	Ahna Bizjak	Dr. Leslie Bergstrom
Heather Garrison	Lauren Mayne	Troy Pankratz	Mike Carr
Kristin Gebhardt	Heather Rattmann		Jina Jonen
Cassie Lopez*	Laura Stoller		Andy Weiland
Natalia Silva	Carmen Storlie		
Aaron Zitzelsberger	Dawna Wright		
	Stacy Sergent		
	BJ McMahon (Bus Contractor)		

Chair: Dr. Leslie Bergstrom

Timeline: January 2020 - February 2020

* Unable to continue past meeting 1 on January 28.

Appendix B

- Board Approved Charge for School Start & End Time Work Group
- 2020-2021 Working Plans - December 16, 2019 slide deck
- January 28, 2020 slide deck
- OSD Attendance Boundary Map
- American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on school start time for adolescents
- Journal of Educational Psychology article - Earlier School Start Times as a Risk Factor for Poor School Performance: An Examination of Public Elementary Schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- E-mail from Dr. Keller, one of the authors of the University of KY study published in the Journal of Educational Psychology.
- Two additional article related to the University of KY study
- OEA statement on school start and stop times
- February 3, 2020 slide deck
 - **OSD co-curricular information** participation, examples of leave times for OMS and OHS athletic events, travel time to various athletic event locations, and the impact on instructional time when co-curricular advisors/coaches must leave school to accompany a team thus not available to teach class.
 - DPI instructional minute minimums and how minutes are calculated as well as annual hours by grade for Oregon and other Dane County Districts
 - Transportation complexities as outlined by bussing consultant, Griffin Scott and presented by Andy Weiland. In addition, information was provided regarding the number of actual riders on our busses and the number of students in grades 5-12 who arrive at school, by bus, prior to 7:30 am.
 - The number of OSD students registered for after school programming about which we are aware as well as the number of students on the After School Club waiting list.
 - Updated numbers on e-mails from staff and parents as well as feedback themes.
 - Information on how budget decisions are prioritized, teacher preparation time, and parent drop-off patterns.
- Handout on Oregon and other Dane County Schools on:
 - Average Daily Minutes
 - Average Weekly Minutes
 - Early Release Time
 - Daily Teacher Contract Time
 - Yearly Teacher Contract Time
 - Oregon Course offerings for grades 5 and 6 compared to other Districts.
- The Bell Time and Route Efficiency Assessment Executive Summary Brief
- February 11, 2020 slide deck
 - Additional information on OSD athletics and Round 2 on the complex transportation information
 - Pictures of the original options with comments and questions as well as noted on other possibilities
- February 18, 2020 slide deck
- Additional option for consideration submitted by Work Group member, Heather Garrison