

Holliston School Committee
School Start Time Subcommittee (SSTS)
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2018, 3:30-5:00 pm
Central Office

Attendees: Stacey Raffi (Chair), Cynthia Listewnik, Martha Devoe, Dr. Brad Jackson and Jose Libano, Principal of Sharon High School..

The SSTS had scheduled two different sessions of our meeting. SSTS had invited guests for the respective sessions that shared their experience with the planning, implementation, and post implementation of changes in their respective school districts.

From 3:30-5:00 pm, Jose Libano attended the meeting. Mr. Libano provided a summary of the experience at Sharon Public Schools.

- Sharon HS has 5 classes per day with an eagle block similar to HHS DSB, with the commitment to music and band instruction during this time.
- Change made: HS changed from 7:25 to 7:50, MS changed to 7:50 (a prior start time), and 3 neighborhood elementary schools (K-5) changed to 7:40 (significantly less buses)
- There was no impact on transportation costs, by tweaking times the cost remained the same.

Lessons Learned:

- Length of team practice times needed to be monitored and regulated. Letter from principal to coaches, reminding practice start time is 3:30 and put parameters in place for length.
- HS teams felt disadvantaged, arriving to games near game start times with reduced warm up times and guest teams arriving when still in class or getting released. AD worked with other ADs to coordinate arrival time and tweaking game schedule times with MIAA. Also had discussions with referees, later game starts and the need to have warm up time.
- HS administration committed to 2:40-3:30 buffer zone for academic help and club meetings.
- Commitment to allow students to do both, academic help/clubs and athletics.
- Contractually teachers are required to stay until 3:00, scheduled school is 6hr 35 min day.

Overall changes

- Less tardiness
- Better attendance
- Perceived improved health and well-being of students
- School building open from 6:30 with Library and Cafeteria supervised
- Administration and leaders have some flexibility for 30 minute meetings before school.

Academic Workload

- Added time management tool on website
- Revised program of studies that includes general guidelines for homework load
- Administration and union representatives developed homework white paper and all homework assignments posted online.
- Common planning time and alignment across departments.

The second session scheduled from 5:00-6:30 pm, with representatives from Ashland High School was postponed at the request of our guest. This portion of the meeting was rescheduled for May 1, 2018

Next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2018.