

Holliston School Committee
School Start Time Subcommittee (SSTS)
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2018, 8:30-9:30 am
Central Office

Attendees: Stacey Raffi (Chair), Cynthia Listewnik, Martha Devoe, and Dr. Brad Jackson.

Dr. Jackson updated the SSTS on the assessment done by Student Resource officers of HPD and discussions with HFD related to the elementary school campus and the combined student population drop off and release. Mr. Buday was involved in these meetings, discussions and the assessment of school bus use of the fire lane at the rear. It was reported that Chief Cassidy has concerns related to access to emergency access roads and potential change in flow and access in the event of an emergency. Mr. Buday shared that he worked with the transportation coordinator to test drive the use of the emergency access road. There are concerns related to the use and the ability for the buses to safely navigate this road with its current width and curves particularly during winter months that may have reduced widths and icy conditions. This fire lane is over campus septic flow pipes which occasional traffic does not impact but increased regular and heavier weights of loaded buses may impact.

Mr. Buday with assistance from Holmes and HPD modeled the options for 20 buses to arrive, load/unload and arrive/depart from the elementary campus. This volume of buses would need to use the middle loop as well as a portion of current loop of Placentino. This use of both loops would require parent/guardian pick up to Miller loop, rear of school, or PK area/road to RAMS. Both elementary school principals have significant concerns related to the student safety under this combined model and are recommending not moving forward with this option.

The work group and SSTS acknowledged that other options could be explored but most likely would require capital projects (remove island in cafeteria loop, traffic flow from plant to elementary school, roadway from elementary campus to Washington Street). Each option has different potential issues with regard to expense, wetlands and feasibility. None are viable for the current timetable of the recommended implementation.

SSTS regrouped on where they are in the process and acknowledged the setback related to the recommended plan of Scenario B. The subcommittee then reflected on the factors that influenced the decisions to date. The initial parameters were:

- We didn't want students to be at bus stops in the dark (before 6:40 am or after 4:00 pm)
- We wanted to continue to provide bus transportation to HHS students
- Financial constraints led us to favor an incremental cost increase by consolidating three bus runs to two bus runs. We did evaluate and eliminating the most expensive option of one bus run, which would be all schools starting and ending at the same time.
- We chose to allow grades K-5 to share buses rather than have elementary and middle school students share transportation.

As the new year starts, SSTS will need to explore modification and possible alternatives to the options. To do so, SSTS will need further study, discussion, and engagement. Moving forward, the subcommittee remains committed to adjusting our school start times to better align them with adolescent sleep patterns, improving quality of sleep our students receive and, in turn, their physical and mental health. In the coming months the SSTS will need to engage parents/guardians, staff/administrators and broader community in the discussions.

Based on the matters discussed, SSTS agreed to update the SC during its upcoming meeting during Committee Reports and recommend not making the change to Scenario B for the 2019-2020 school year. SSTS would like to use the rest of this school year to continue to engage in planning of other alternatives and the engagement of the community on the issue and options.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2018. ***** We believe December 14, was cancelled, as NO one has any meeting minutes and we decided on the next meeting in January via email.**