

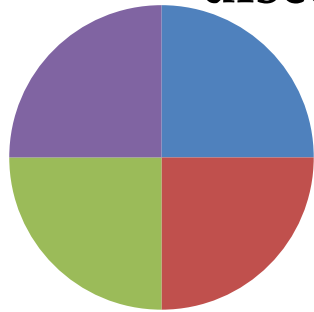
Change in School Start Times and Two Tier Transportation

A continued conversation September 2016

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The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.

Factors that impact the discussion



- Community
- Instruction & Program
- Efficiencies
- Fiscal

Board of Education Goal 2016-2017

Ensure that the budget is fiscally responsible, focusing on student achievement with a thorough understanding of federal, state and local mandates.

Q&A from
Community and
Board of
Education and
all previous
presentations
available on

www.wappingersschools.org

Change in School Start Times and Two Tier Transportation Historical Timeline

April 2015 presentation to BOE - WCSD Transportation Report

November 2015 presentation to BOE – Change in School Start Times and Two Tier Transportation

November 2015 to January 2016 - Feedback from community and BOE

- Six scenarios shared with BOE
- Evaluated pros and cons for each - safety, policy, BOE goals & amount of disruption to students/families

January 2016 presentation to BOE – Change in School Start Times and Two Tier Transportation - A Continued Conversation

- Reviewed top four scenarios
- Survey results from January 2016

February 8, 2016 Board of Education

- Resolution approved - no change in start time for 2016-2017
- Continue work to find safety measures and efficiencies in Transportation Department
- Superintendent to gather information from other Superintendents
- Present findings in late Fall 2016

June 20, 2016 Board of Education

- Discussion by Board of Education and Superintendent
- Confirmed resolution and work to be done that was discussed in February 2016

January 2016 Board of Education Meeting

January 2016 - Scenario 4 was presented to the Board as the best option

AM

- JJ routed separately
- RCK routed separately
- VW routed separately
- WJ routed separately
- Private and Parochial north side routed separate to St. Mary Wappingers (approximately 9 vehicles)
- Private and Parochial south side routed separate to St. Columba (approximately 14 vehicles)
- Exception for St. Mary's Wappingers, Fishkill and St. Columba routed separately
- Elementary as current

PM

- JJ routed separately
- RCK routed separately
- VW routed separately
- WJ routed separately
- Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Martin de Porres (approximately 327 students) routed with 10 elementary schools dismissal
- Remaining Private and Parochial would remain as current

Least impact to students & families, meets policy, BOE goals and safety protocols

A CONTINUED CONVERSATION...

From January 2016 to September 26, 2016

CHANGE IN START TIMES:

Conversation with Regional Superintendent MaryAnn Daley for the NYS Archdiocese Spring 2016

- WCSD understands the importance of transportation to private and parochial parents
- Clarification on parochial start time
- WCSD would be possibly changing start time in 2017-2018
- Currently K-12 parochial students - Our Lady of Lourdes (9-12) and St. Martins de Porres (K-8) ride together – no concerns or issues

Reviewed Scenario 4

- Looked for options to reduce stress on second tier vehicle needs, staff and additional efficiencies
- No changes could be made to meet criteria used previously

WCSD Inter-scholastics & Extra-Curricular Activities

- New sports teams 2016-2017
- Possibility of moving to another Section
- School end time after 2:30pm would be a serious concern for making away sporting contests on time
- Not standard to remove students early from class in WCSD unless during sectional or championship play
- Extra-curricular activities start later and impact student's off campus responsibilities

Change in Start Times

Arlington CSD (website research)

- Reviewed School Start Time Update presentation - March 2016
- Arlington was looking to change the start time of their High School from 7:30am to 8:00am or later
- Cost benefit analysis no clear indication that start time of 8:00am would be beneficial
- No action taken by Arlington CSD in March 2016

Rhinebeck CSD (website research)

- 2014-2015 an ad hoc committee developed 4 options
- 2015-2016 information shared with Board of Education and community
- 2016-2017 pilot program that moved start time at High School and Middle School 7:30am to 8:00am and shortened time between periods

Change In Start Times

CURRENT Start Times

RCK & JJ High Schools
7:17am

Middle Schools
& Myers Elementary
7:50 am

All other Elementary
Schools
8:50am

Private & Parochial
Schools
7:45am-8:30am

PROPOSED Start Times

RCK & JJ High Schools
and Middle Schools
7:30am

All Elementary Schools
8:30am

Private & Parochial
Schools
7:45am-8:30am

Change in Start Times

Results of Superintendent's Survey Summer 2016

Name of School District	What time does the school day begin for High School students?	What time does the school day begin for Middle School Students?	What time does the school day begin for Elementary School Students?
Wappingers	7:10 - 7:20	7:50 - 8:00	8:50 - 9:00
Dover	7:20- 7:30	7:20 - 7:30	8:20 - 8:30
Pine Plains	7:20 - 7:30	7:20 - 7:30	8:50 - 9:00
Arlington	7:30 - 7:40	7:30 - 7:40	8:40 - 8:50
Milbrook	7:30 - 7:40	7:30 - 7:40	8:50 - 9:00
Pawling	7:40 - 7:50	7:40 - 7:50	8:50 - 9:00
Rhinebeck	8:00 - 8:10	8:00 - 8:10	8:50 - 9:00

- WCSD is the earliest school start time of 7 schools that responded to the Superintendent's survey.
- Shifting start time of High School would align WCSD with several other local school districts.

Change in Start Times

Why does a change in start and end time matter?

Safety



Increase safety - daylight for all students

Safety



Inclement weather calls & 1 hour, 2 hour and 3 hour delay options available

Students/ Family Time



HS and MS start times more aligned with other county schools (5 out of 7 surveyed)

Student/Family Time



Earlier elementary dismissal allows for extra time in afternoon

Board of Education



Fiscal responsibility & adherence to policy

Board of Education Policy



Compliance can be sustained

Change in Start Times

High Schools and Middle Schools 7:30am to 2:10pm

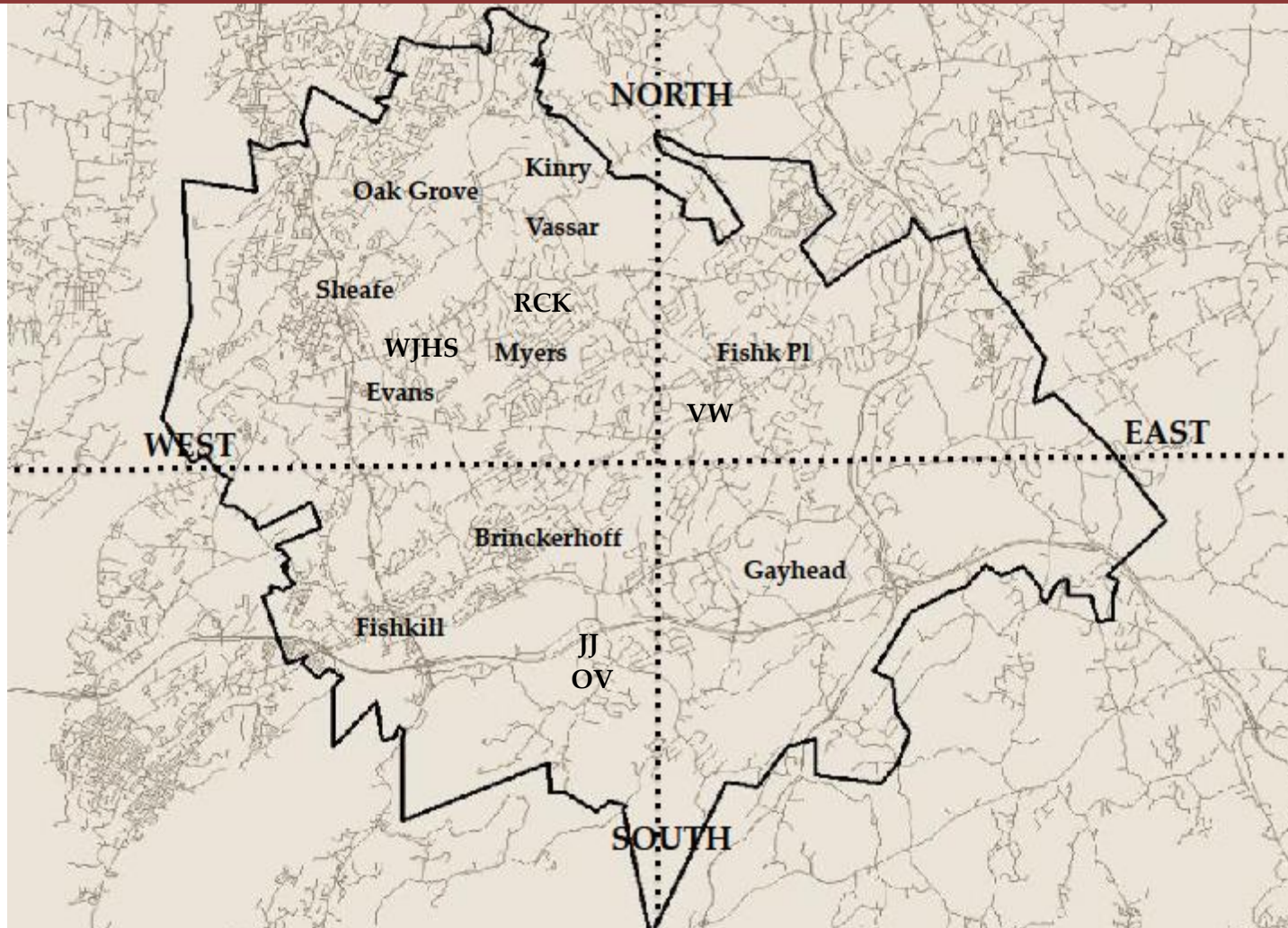
Elementary Schools 8:30am to 3:10pm

Impact of changes in start times will RESULT
in a two tier transportation system

Why?

- Increased alignment with local Districts' transportation systems
- Equal educational setting time for WCSD students
- Fiscal diligence (estimated savings of \$280,000)
- Compliance with NYS law and BOE policy 8410
- Additional time to make inclement weather decisions
- 1 hour, 2 hour & 3 hour delay options

Two Tier Structure



Based on map above WCSD can not follow a true north/south split for transportation purposes. However, this does not prohibit a two tier structure opportunity for WCSD.

Two Tier Structure

District Policy

- Scenario 4 as presented complies with District policy 8410 – Student Transportation
- Ride times have been evaluated and meet policy requirements

Board of Education Goal

- The BOE will be exercising its due diligence and fiscal responsibility

WCSD Fleet Size, Composition and Staffing

- Age and composition of fleet were reviewed for adequacy
 - 2017-2018 purchases may need adjustment to address age
- Refreshed data of fleet's preventative maintenance, Department of Transportation inspections and breakdowns
- Refreshed data on absenteeism and current staff levels, inclusive of long term leaves

Two Tier Structure

Data to support safety

Month	Sunrise time Range	Sunset time range
September	6:21am – 6:51am	7:29pm – 6:39pm
October	6:52am – 7:26am	6:38pm – 5:52pm
November	7:27am – 7:01am**	5:50pm – 4:26pm**
December	7:02am – 7:22am	4:26pm – 4:35pm
January	7:22am – 7:09am	4:35pm – 5:08pm
February	7:08am – 6:31am	5:09pm – 5:44pm
March	6:30am – 6:40am**	5:45pm – 7:19pm**
April	6:38am – 5:53am	7:20pm – 7:52pm
May	5:52am – 5:24am	7:53pm – 8:22pm
June	5:23am – 5:24am	8:23pm – 8:33pm

** - daylight savings time

Earlier pm dismissal for elementary provides more daylight in the afternoon

Later start time for HS/MS provides a bit more daylight in the morning

WCSD Next Steps...

- Community Forum scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th at RCK Cafeteria from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Include a resolution for the October 17, 2016 Board of Education meeting agenda to approve the change in start times for WCSD public schools.
- This timeline will allow staff, families and administration ample opportunity to create a transition plan and budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

WCSD FAQs

Questions Received via Public Comment

1. Since WJHS and RCK are 2 miles apart on the same high traffic road, how much has the impact of the additional 60+ buses been studied?
 1. *When this work began in October 2015, the District reached out to local town/village Departments of Transportation. We shared the idea of a change in start time and a two tier system. We shared a range in vehicles that would be needed to meet the potential scenarios. We were assured the impact would be negligible since we are speaking of several miles of roads. We did indicate that if something were to change within the District 's start times that we would share with local municipalities. It is important to note, the number of vehicles to be added in any area is not 60 plus since a tier already exists (e.g.: High Schools). Nothing has changed since the initial discussions so we have not reached out to the Towns again.*
2. Could it be that pick-up times will remain relatively the same to compensate for increased traffic so the later start for high schools has no impact on either sleep or safety concerns?
 2. *The change in start time for High School students is 13 minutes. Some would say that this is not enough time to make either a positive or negative. However, due to the manner in which we build bus routes to maintain efficiency, we are starting the tier one routes approximately 10 minutes later. We do not feel that traffic will have that much of an impact as to negate the 10 minutes based on the information from #1 above.*

WCSD FAQs

Questions Received via Public Comment

3. Also there is congested traffic on the village side streets from WJHS drop off and pick up; what will the impact be for parents who need to pick up at both schools at dismissal?
 3. *It will have the same impact as it does for parents who currently have students at Myers and at WJHS or VWJHS.*
4. What is the impact for parents who have to pick up or drop off at both VW and JJ, which are over 5 miles apart?
 4. *It will have the same impact as it does for parents who currently have students at Myers and/or VWJHS.*
5. What will the 9th period in their high school children's schedules will be used for, since the WCT contract calls for teachers to teach 5 periods/day?
 5. *A nine period day is not part of this presentation. If there is a recommendation to be made for a nine period day, the Administration that will share that with the Board.*
6. Will lunch periods now be mandatory for all students?
 6. *This is not relevant to this presentation. Although, I don't think so.*

WCSD FAQs

Questions Received via Public Comment

7. How will high school teachers be utilizing the additional class period since they cannot be asked to teach another class or have another "duty" and they do not have the same "team" organization with a common period for team planning that junior high teachers have.
7. The nine period day question, is again a question that is not related to this presentation.
8. What is the impact to bus drivers? Is it true that part-time drivers will lose hours (and pay) as a result? If we currently have trouble finding and keeping qualified drivers, what will the long term impact be on the district?
8. The goal every year is to have drivers assigned a five hour packet. This is in line with the Union and the existing contract. Part-time drivers drive five hours per day. Part-time drivers who drive in excess of five hours receive overtime. This is not optimal and we will continue to do the best that we can to continue this practice of five hour packets.
9. Have we spoken to local day care/after school businesses to see if there is any impact with them? (e.g. Tots n Us)
9. Yes, in October/November 2015 the District reached out to several local daycare providers. They were not concerned with our change in start time. We did indicate that IF this was to be approved we would share this information as early as possible.
10. Have we spoken to HS students to see what they think since many have after school jobs besides extra after school activities – Sports, etc?
10. We surveyed parents. We did not survey students. We are hopeful that any changes to be made will allow for plenty of time for students to make arrangements with their employers.

WCSD FAQs

Questions Received via Public Comment

11. What are the distances the buses travel in the other districts mentioned? School to School. How many miles are each school from each other compared to us. ES – JHS – HS.

11. This question needs clarification to ensure we are clear we understand what is being asked.

12. Has there been further conversations with parents of students who attend private schools in our district?

12. At this time there has not been direct conversation with parochial parents beyond the survey completed in January 2016. Parochial parents were asked to review the information provided. Many of their concerns were answered and clarified in the existing presentations. We did speak to the Regional Superintendent of the NYS Archdiocese in June 2016. She was very receptive and was willing to share information with principals of the five WCSD parochial schools.

13. Tier 1 schedule for HS and JHS are at the same time, will they have the same routes when traveling?

13. There will be buses that travel the same routes in the same tier. There is no way to not have this be the case since the four schools will not be sharing vehicles due to the distance between schools.

14. Under two-tier there are less buses being used – New Tier 1 - 106 buses to 121 buses under old 3 Tier - how are all students going to fit?

14. To compare vehicles between Tier 1 and Tier 3 is not feasible. Transportation has re-routed all students. This has been done in accordance with bus loads as stipulated by the vehicles' make, model and ride times per BOE policy. The number of morning and afternoon routes have been determined for both tiers using Scenario 4 and the students fit. This has been confirmed.

WCSD FAQs

Questions Received via Public Comment

15. How many buses will there be on the road during the first run?
15. Currently there are 106 used for HS/MS runs (JJ, RCK, OV, WJHS & VW) in the morning and afternoon. The same will be true under Scenario 4. This is something that the administration will maintain through future bus propositions as well.
16. Should a bus break down, do we have replacement buses and will this affect the second run?
16. Currently when a vehicle breaks down we send a mechanic and a replacement bus. Any given day we shuffle vehicles as needed. This would continue to be true in a two tier system.
17. Is there adequate time between runs in inclement weather? Y
17. Yes.
18. Will there be enough seats for students during both runs?
18. To compare vehicles between Tier 1 and Tier 3 is not feasible. Transportation has re-routed all students. This has been done in accordance with bus loads as stipulated by the vehicles' make, model and ride times per BOE policy. The number of morning and afternoon routes have been determined for both tiers using Scenario 4 and the students fit. This has been confirmed.
19. Will riding times be same or longer?
19. The average ride time will remain the same. This was discussed in November 2015 and January 2016. We addressed the ride times and District policy 8410 and this has been the subject of much discussion. Nothing has been changed in this regard.

WCSD FAQs

Questions Received via Public Comment

20. (Does) the proposed plan shave 35 minutes off of each day in junior high, which (would) equate to 117 hours of lost teacher contact time a year? Do elementary students stand to lose 20 minutes daily, at an annual loss of 67 hours?

20. The instructional school day for all grade levels will be six hours and 40 minutes. This is uniform across the District. The District confirmed all start and end times with building administration over the summer to ensure that no student would be losing instructional time.

21. (Is) the proposed plan pretending that the safety of the children and their quality family time is important? (This appears to be) flawed reasoning since the hundreds of Myers children will be getting home LATER than they currently do!

21. The safety of all of our students is paramount. By changing the school start time we can add a few moments of daylight in the morning while not affecting the afternoon dismissal. We have prepared a sunrise and sunset chart on page 13 of this presentation which supports this data.

For additional information about the process for the discussion on Change in Start Times please click [here](#).