

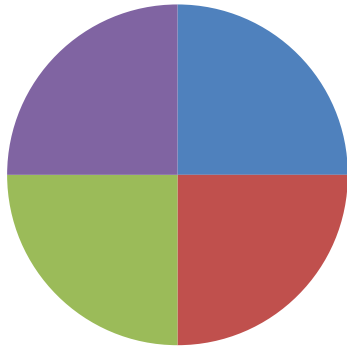
WCSD Board of Education Presentation

Change in School Start Times and Two Tier Transportation A Continued Conversation

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

How?

By identifying whether services can be streamlined to save money in the Transportation Department

April 2015 presentation was given to the BOE

WCSD Transportation Report

- two tier transportation system
 - change in start time
 - Pros and Cons
 - Instruction and Programs
 - Efficiencies
 - Fiscal
 - Community

Survey completed in April 2015 and included in the WCSD Transportation Report

November 2015 presentation of scenario's to the BOE

Feedback from community and BOE

Survey January 2016 to call impacted students & families

Survey Results April 2015 Change in Start Time

	Yes	No	No Opinion
High School	83%	11%	6%
Junior High School	41%	49%	10%
Myers Corners only	50%	41%	9%
All other Elementary Schools	55%	36%	9%

Overall Results
61% Yes 31 % No
8% No Opinion

What year to make the change?
53% 2015-2016
25% 2016-2017
22% No Opinion

Survey Results January 2016 Change in Start Time Includes ALL WCSD families – public and private & parochial

	Yes	No	No Opinion
High School 1,471 responses	66%	25%	9%
Jr High School 842 responses	34%	50%	16%
Myers Corners only 312 responses	34%	56%	10%
All other Elementary Schools 1,663 responses	43%	44%	13%

P& P survey

302 responses

88% of families understand no change in
start time to P&P schools

84% of families use WCSD Transportation

Overall Results

48% Yes 40% No

12% No Opinion

Concerns for a change in start time for 2016-2017

- Negotiated Contracts
- Transportation Needs
- Private and Parochial Schools
- Impact of disruption to families
- Impact to instructional program
- Impact to extracurricular activities and inter-scholastics
- Impact on professional development opportunities to staff
- District usage of drivers in buildings for cleaning, et al

Feedback from community and BOE

Community

Questions pertaining to :

- timing of proposed changes
- what steps have been taken related to savings and efficiencies in the Transportation Department
- inclusion of private and parochial families in the sharing of information and feedback
- Additional vehicle and staffing needs of proposed change

Specific answers can be found in the
Public Comment Responses on the District's website
www.wappingersschools.org

Feedback from community and BOE

Board of Education

Questions pertaining to :

Bus tiers in other districts

- 5 surrounding districts - have two tier system

Parochial students and public students shared ride time

- 5 surrounding districts - 3 share transportation, 1 does not share transportation and 1 does not offer transportation to Parochial students

What other Districts do....

Start Time - District

Secondary

Elementary

Arlington

7:30 am

8:15 am

Beacon

7:30 am

8:40 am

Carmel

7:10 am

9:20 am

Hyde Park

7:30 am

9:15/9:35 am

Poughkeepsie

7:45 am

7:50/8:15 am

What other Districts do....

District
Arlington

Shared Public & Private
Transportation

Yes

Beacon

No

Carmel

Yes

Hyde Park

Yes

Poughkeepsie

No Transportation –
walking district

Feedback from community and BOE

Board of Education

Questions pertaining to :

Support for later start times for Secondary students

- A proven fact by many studies and research that later start times provide secondary students with more opportunities to succeed. More sleep provides teen students with opportunity to handle stressful situations and manage time more effectively, which can lead to more positive outcomes.
- Safety for students – arrive during daylight
- Safety for students & staff – more time to make decisions regarding inclement weather

Support for earlier start times for Elementary students

- Sleep cycles for younger children different than for teens
- More time for extra curricular activities – ease some of the strain on families
- Safety for students – arrive home during daylight

Feedback from community and BOE

Board of Education

Questions pertaining to :

Instructional impact of change in WCSD start times for Parochial students

- Parochial students would be transported by WCSD and report to school on time for start of their school day

Possibility of changing Secondary school start time only and leave Elementary times as is (ie: 8:50am)

- If the Elementary start times were not moved to an earlier time students and families would still have the stresses related to after school activities, safety concerns related to daylight would still exist and fewer, if any, efficiencies for the Transportation Department

Feedback from community and BOE

Board of Education

Questions pertaining to :

Data related to parents who pick up their Elementary students at dismissal due to time constraints with after school activities

- Polled Elementary school principals – between 5% and 20% of student population picked up by parents on days for specific after school activities (ie: religious education, musical lessons)

Possibility of changing Secondary school start time to 9:00am and Elementary start times to 8:00am

- Impact to WCSD Transportation – have to maintain a three tier system in order to get parochial students to their respective schools on time, much fewer, if any, efficiencies for the Department
- Impact to WCSD Secondary students – Inter-scholastic and extra curricular impact would require students lose instructional time to be on time for games/activities

Feedback from community and BOE

Board of Education Questions pertaining to :

If secondary schools have a later start time and elementary schools start earlier will this allow for all public school students to get to school on time?

- Currently we have approximately 50 minutes between the first and second tier wherein approximately 5,700 students are transported. We successfully transport these students to school on time daily. The same applies for the third tier where there is approximately 60 minutes between runs and approximately 5,400 students.
- In the November 2015 discussion there were several options presented that would not allow for students to arrive to school on time and as such were reported as negative impact.

Will the District have enough vehicles and drivers to meet the needs of a change in start time and two tier system?

- At the beginning of this conversation, it was determined that the existing fleet and staff should be used to meet this transition. Scenario's previously presented did include the need for additional vehicles and staff and were reported as negative impacts.

Have driver absenteeism and vehicle maintenance been taken into account in each scenario?

- Driver average absenteeism and long term outages have been factored in to each scenario. School vehicle scheduled maintenance and average breakdowns have also been included in the research and planning.

Important
things to
note prior
to
continued
discussion

- Current Special Education runs would NOT be affected and 504 accommodations would continue to be met
- Driver absenteeism/outages and school vehicle maintenance schedules have been factored in
- Elementary runs will remain as currently routed – the only change would be in start time for the day
- Parochial schools have been included in this discussion and do not wish to change their start times
- Vassar and Kinry Road afternoon busing will be combined (just like the morning bus routes)
- Parochial shuttle needs would remain the same - 18 from two central locations

Board of Education discussion on:

- Scenario 6
- Scenario 3
- Scenario 2
- Scenario 4
 - Criteria – policy compliance, safety procedures met, Board of Education fiscal responsibility goal and least amount of disruption to students and families

Cost Benefit Analysis financial information is based on the average operating cost for maintenance of school vehicles during the 2015-2016 school year using data from 2014-2015. This estimate is based on an approved New York State calculation. It is an estimate and is subject to change.

Board of Education Feedback Scenario Discussion	Scenario	Policy	Safety Procedures & Protocols	BOE Goals	Least amount of disruption to students / families
	6	X	X	X	
	3		X	X	
	2		X	X	
	4	X	X	X	X

Scenario 6

JJ routed separately

VW routed separately

RCK and WJ routed together

private and parochial schools depart from two central locations

Total annual miles 350,132

Cost Benefit Analysis

Facts

- Ride times within policy
- Later start times for secondary schools (safety & student success)
- Earlier dismissal for elementary schools (safety & student success)
- Bus loads are adequate (safety)
- Large estimated savings (BOE goal)
- Substantial impact to Private & Parochial
 - Private & parochial students would not have house or community stops – WCSD Transportation would start from two central locations in District

Potential
Transportation
Savings \$817,000

Cost Benefit to this
scenario
reduced by impact to
students & families

Scenario 3

JJ routed separately

VW and south end private and parochial schools routed together

RCK, WJ and north end private and parochial schools routed together

Total annual miles 361,625

Cost Benefit Analysis

Facts

- Several ride times NOT within current policy

NYS School Law 57:16 states:

“Neither the education law nor the commissioner’s regulations specify a maximum time limit for the transportation of students. The commissioner of education has ruled that, depending on the circumstances, one way trips of up to one and one half hours are not necessarily excessive. Nonetheless the time spent “en route” to and from school must be reasonable.”

Policy 8410 – Student Transportation includes language for 45 minute ride time targets for public school students without special accommodations or requirements.

- Later start times for secondary schools (safety & student success)
- Earlier dismissal for elementary schools (safety & student success)
- Congestion at Middle School lots due to parochial routing and transfer to shuttles (safety)
- Bus loads are adequate (safety)
- Large estimated savings (BOE goal)

Potential
Transportation
Savings \$792,000

Cost Benefit to this
scenario
reduced by lack of
support from WCSD
policy, loss of student
benefit to change in
start time and
possible safety
concerns at the
Middle School lots
due to congestion

Scenario 2

VW and south end private and parochial schools routed together

WJ and north end private and parochial schools routed together

RCK routed separately

JJ routed separately

Total annual miles 501,332

Cost Benefit Analysis

Facts

- A few ride times NOT within current policy.
- Later start times for secondary schools (safety & student success)
- Earlier dismissal for elementary schools (safety & student success)
- Congestion at Middle School lots due to parochial routing and transfer to shuttles (safety)
- Bus loads are adequate (safety)
- Estimated Transportation savings (BOE goal)

Potential
Transportation
Savings \$489,000

Cost Benefit to this
scenario
reduced by lack of support
from WCSD policy, loss of
student benefit to change
in start time and possible
safety concerns at the
Middle School lots due to
congestion

Scenario 4

JJ routed separately

VW routed separately

RCK routed separately

WJ routed separately

south end private and parochial schools routed together

north end private and parochial schools routed together

Total annual miles 597,600

Cost Benefit Analysis

Facts

- Ride times within policy
- Later start times for secondary schools (safety & student success)
- Earlier dismissal for elementary schools (safety & student success)
- Bus loads are adequate (safety)
- Estimated savings (BOE goal)

Potential
Transportation
Savings \$280,000

Cost Benefit to this
scenario
reduced by lower
estimated
Transportation
savings

WCSD Next Steps.....

2016-2017
Transportation
budget
presentation
February 8, 2016

Answer any questions from
the Board of Education

Answer any
questions from
the public

Gather more data as needed

Include a resolution for the January 25, 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 for the 2016-2017 school year.