



Town of Littleton School Committee

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JEN GOLD, Vice Chair
STACY DESMARAIS, Member

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BRAD AUSTIN, Clerk
BINAL PATEL, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPEN FORUM MINUTES November 10, 2022 7:00PM

PRESENT: Justin McCarthy
Jen Gold
Binal Patel

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Jen Gold called the Open Forum meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **School Start Times:** Information updates from School Start Time Committee. Jen Gold and Binal Patel went through the five different school start times options that were included in the survey that went out to the community for their input.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Kristin McManus – I believe with a later start time for elementary schools it would have a huge impact on working parents. It would require additional childcare in the morning, and as we all know, Tigers Den is already at full capacity. I am also speaking as a teacher in a different district. We have not seen a huge change in the older student's attendance or behavior. I do not think that a later start time for these students would fix any issues. This is just a band aid. I do not think that having the older students start later in the morning will help. It will prolong their day. They will come home later, and their afternoon activities will end even later. It will add more stress to families at home.

TJ Donegan – My only concern with an earlier start time for the younger students is, that they will have to be on the bus even earlier to get to school for a 7:45AM start time, and they would get out at 2PM. Parents are

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Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

35 still at work at that time. I am not sure we have seen enough evidence to support that chance for our younger
36 students.

37
38 Sarah B – How will we measure success with this project? I imagine we will have some short- and long-term
39 data points. I am interested in hearing how we will measure the success at a later time.

40 Jen Gold - Test scores and performance overall that we use to measure performance. Students' mental health
41 metrics. I am not sure that we have performance indicators that we can use to measure retroactively to see the
42 success. I believe we must look at districts across the country to see that this is good for developing minds.

43
44 **Parent** – The main reason we are talking about changing the start time is because of sleep. It is about time
45 management. If your child needs more sleep, they should go to bed earlier and then they would get the
46 necessary sleep. It is better to prepare the students for better sleeping habits. It will be helpful for college and
47 work later. I want to keep the schedule as is.

48
49 Ann Spiegel – Option 3 and 4 seems to meet people in the middle the most. I do worry about the after-school
50 care. And I worry about the younger students getting up so much earlier as the previous person stated. I am
51 hoping we will have more benchmarks before a decision is made.

52
53 **Parent** – I understand that older students need more sleep and a later start time but what I would suggest is
54 that we focus on the students/kids not the parents. I think we need to extend the start time for the older
55 students, and I would prefer option #2.

56
57 Katherine Karl – Why don't we look at option 4 and combine high school and middle school and leave
58 Russell Street and Shaker Lane alone. The younger students are not the problem. Leave them alone. Change
59 the time for the older students and pay for the extra bus and that's it.

60
61 Ann Spiegel – Have we done this survey with the administration? What was the result?

62 Binal Patel – We also surveyed them, and we will provide the data at our next school committee meeting.

63
64 Sharon Martin – With option 4 it says that the bus fees would double. Does that mean that it would be \$500
65 per child?

66 Binal Patel – We are just trying to gauge what it potentially could be with that option.

67
68 Karen Morrison – Thank you for the process. I believe this is a problem that needs to be addressed and not
69 studied further. There seems to be the consensus that older children have a different sleep schedule than
70 younger students. A 3-tier schedule means that one school will be starting really early. My favorite is option
71 #2.

72
73 Jen Gold – At our next school committee we will be sharing the results in deep detail.

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