

**GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT**

Board of Education Meeting Agenda Document Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: October 8, 2015

Agenda Item Title: **School Start Time Exploration Status Report**

Name of Submitter(s): Dr. William McKersie, Superintendent
Ms. Cynthia Womack, School Start Time Project
Manager

The Superintendent has submitted for review and discussion a slide presentation on the School Start Time Exploration. The presentation is a status report on the updates and implications related to SST Options and Variables. The document highlights the key variables that have budget implications and summarizes the SST option implications that have been examined and researched to date.

Status Report: School Start Time Exploration

William McKersie, Ph.D. Greenwich Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia Womack, Project Manager 10.08.2015

Overview

SCHOOL START TIME CHANGE

A Steering Committee has been charged to explore optimal school start times for maximizing the academic, social and emotional well being of all Greenwich Public School students.

The committee will research and investigate the variables and implications that relate to the implementation of the SST options.

The community and GPS staff will have several opportunities to weigh in on the options.

The superintendent will make a final recommendation to the BOE to implement one of the six options or a hybrid solution.

Overview

Expected delivery

Recommendation to BOE -

November 5, 2015

Recent progress

- Six School Start Time Options Identified
- 13 Variables Investigated and Budget Implications Highlighted

Biggest Challenge

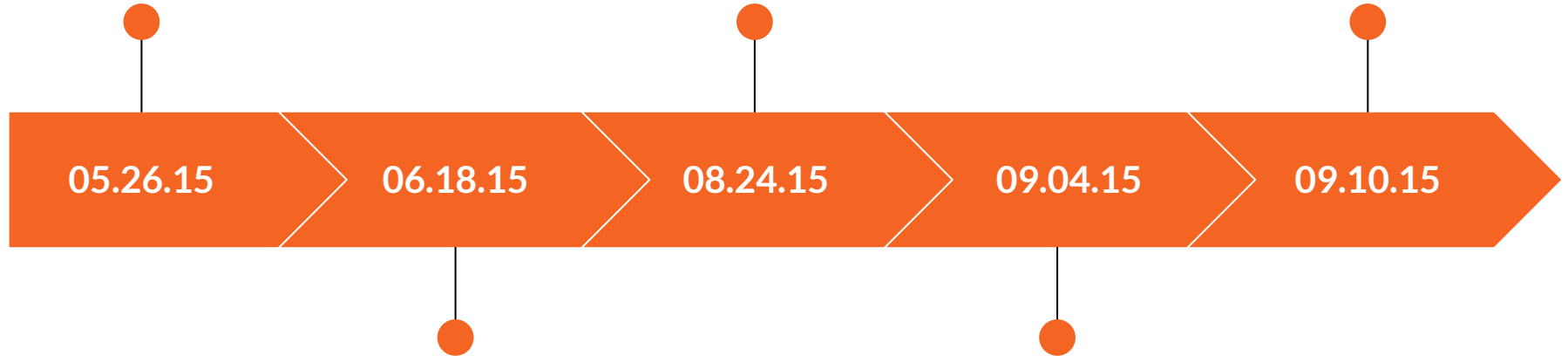
Is it possible to identify and explore all the implications, logistical issues and financial obligations to effectively implement an optimal SST by fall 2016-17 ?

Schedule

Survey conducted to identify interest in changing SST for GPS

First SST Steering Committee Meeting

SST Charge and Work Plan presented to BOE



Supt. announces launch of exploration of SST options

Six School Start Time Options Identified and Explored

Status Update to BOE
on SST Budget
Implications

Supt. makes final
recommendation on
SST to BOE

If SST change, detailed
planning from Dec. to
June for 2016-17
implementation



Community Forums on
SST options, variables and
implications

Additional Forums on
SST recommendation

SIX SCHOOL START TIME OPTIONS

Option 1A and 1B - 1A) Switch Elementary School and High School Start Time Or 1B) Switch Elementary School and Middle School or High School Start Time

1A) ELEMENTARY	7:30*	1B) ELEMENTARY	7:30 or 7:45
MIDDLE	7:45 (NO CHANGE)	MIDDLE	8:15 or 8:45
HIGH SCHOOL	8:15 or 8:45	HIGH SCHOOL	8:15 or 8:45

Option 2(A-E) Switch Entire District Start Time by at least 30 Minutes Later with Start Time Options in 15 Minute Increments Ranging from 30 Minutes to 90 Minutes Later

OPTION	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E
High School	8:00-2:45	8:15-3:00	8:30-3:15	8:45-3:30	9:00-3:45
Middle School	8:15-3:05	8:30-3:20	8:45-3:35	9:00-3:50	9:15-4:05
Elementary School	8:45-3:15 9:15-3:45	9:00-3:30 9:30-4:00	9:15-3:45 9:45-4:15	9:30-4:00 10:00- 4:30	9:45-4:15 10:15-4:45

* Based on one standard elementary SST

Option 3

Flexible Start Time and Extended School Day by One Block at the High School

Students have the option of starting the school day one period later and ending later

Option 4

Switch High School Start Time Later

All other school start/end times remain the same

Option 5

Recharge Schedule

There would be a delayed opening one day a week on a designated day. For example- Every Wednesday high school start time would begin 2 hours later

Option 6

Maintain Current School Start Times

All school start times would remain the same

All School Start Times are subject to slight variations within each option

Variable -Budget & Transportation*

Key implication findings are listed below. The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document- Page 3, http://www.greenwichschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Total Number of Students Eligible for School Bus= 7, 035

Public School Students= 4,205 Students or 59.77%

Private School Students= 2,830 Students or 40.23%

Cost of School Bus per year= \$76, 315

Total Number of Buses Currently in Use = 64 Buses*

*** Full analysis included in addendum**

*** Does not include late buses for Sports or Special Ed**

Variable - Budget and Transportation

Define "Run" versus "Route" = Runs consist of the stop location to/from one school
Routes consist of multiple Runs

Number of Bus Routes= 64

Number of Public School Runs= 87

Number of Private School Runs= 31

*Total Runs= 118 (am) 118 (pm)

Morning Operation Time= 6:30-9:00 am

Afternoon Operation Time= 2:00-5:30 pm

(Operation hours reflect current contract agreement and are subject to additional charges if they exceed the contracted hours)

* Does not include late buses for Sports or Special Education

Variable - Budget & Transportation

Option 1: Switch Elementary and Secondary Schools

BUSES (Runs per bus)	15/16 Schedule	OPTION 1A 8:15	OPTION 1A 8:45	OPTION 1B 7:30	OPTION 1B 7:45
SINGLE	12	105	85	67	67
DOUBLE	49	7	17	26	26
TRIPLE	3	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	64	112	102	93	93
Est. # of addtl. buses		48	38	29	29
Est. \$ variance		\$ 3,663,101	\$ 2,899,955	\$ 2,213,123	\$ 2,213,123

Bus estimates based on preliminary research and current contract agreement, other variables may apply

Variable - Budget & Transportation

Option 2: Fifteen minute increments btwn 30-90 minutes later SST

BUSES (Runs per bus)	15/16 Schedule	OPTION 2A	OPTION 2B	OPTION 2C	OPTION 2D	OPTION 2E
SINGLE	12	49	49	40	34	33
DOUBLE	49	32	32	35	38	38
TRIPLE	3	2	2	3	3	3
TOTAL	64	83	83	78	75	74
Est. # of addtl. bus		19	19	14	11	10
Est. \$ variance		\$ 1,449,977	\$ 1,449,977	\$1,068,404	\$ 839,461	\$ 763,146

Bus estimates based on preliminary research and current contract agreement, other variables may apply

Variable - Budget & Transportation

Option 3 : Flexible High School Start Time

Add 29 Buses to the GHS Route/Run- \$ 2, 231, 123

Option 4: Switch Only High School to Later Start Time

Add 29 Buses to the GHS Route/Run- \$ 2, 231, 123

Option 5: Recharge Schedule

Later bus run one day a week at the high school (40 weeks, 29 Times)=\$85,573.20

Option 6 : No Change

No budgetary implications

Budget options do not include additional expenses for Special Education Buses

Variable - Traffic Flow & Congestion

Key implication findings are listed below . The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document- Page 4, http://www.greenwichschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Peak congestion and travel hours in Greenwich are between 7:00-9:30 am, 12:00-1:30 pm and 4:00-7:00 pm

Accident Data- Number of Motor Vehicle Accidents between September 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

6:00-9:00am Adults- 115 Teenagers Age 16-19 year olds - 20 2:00-6:00pm Adults- 470 Teenagers- 74

Options 1-5

Traffic and Engineering is currently conducting a traffic flow study and number count around GHS and feeder roads to Hillside Road. The survey study was completed on September 29, 2015. This will provide more specific information that relates to how much traffic and congestion exists in and around the high school during peak travel times. Current information suggests the following:

- **Option 1:** Switching the high school SST with the elementary SST would require drop off and pick up times at the high school to coincide with rush hour traffic and peak travel times, thus increasing congestion around town.
 - **Options 2, 3 and 4:** Switching the high school to a later SST would result in higher traffic volume during peak congestion hours in Greenwich.
 - **Option 5:** Traffic congestion and flow would be impacted only one day of the week
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Variable - Traffic Flow & Congestion

CROSSING GUARD IMPLICATIONS

- Option 1 is the only option that requires the elementary SST to begin at 7:30am before the middle schools and high school and could impact the number of crossing guards required.
- The deployment of crossing guards is determined by the traffic flows, traffic patterns, traffic counts and accident data per intersection. Current traffic flow patterns in and around the high school are currently being surveyed.
- Additional crossing guards would be required if traffic flow data shows higher volume for crossing intersections currently not monitored and daylight hours are impacted.
- CTSDE offers the following guidelines: Walking to and from school or the bus stop at any time prior to one-half hour before sunrise or any time one-half hour after sunset shall be deemed hazardous for pupils in grades K-8
- Annual rate for a crossing guard is \$ 7, 602.00 at each location yearly cost, \$197,652.00.
- Crossing Guard salaries are covered by Public Safety Police.
- Only elementary and middle schools require crossing guards
- Pushing the SST to a later time as in Option 2 A-E has no impact on the number of crossing guards required.

Variable - Sports and Athletics

Key implication findings are listed below. The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document- Page 5, http://www.greenwichschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Overarching Points

All options impact sports participation, early dismissal, practice and game times and GPS staff who also serve as coaches. The data reflects GHS students. Middle schools will require similar analysis that is currently being explored.

PARTICIPATION AND EARLY DISMISSAL

- Last year 648 students participated in fall sports, 577 students in the winter and 748 students in the spring
- Any varsity event that requires travel north and east of Norwalk may necessitate an early release for participants
- Junior varsity teams may be released early if traveling with varsity teams
- Students will be dismissed from school early if an away contest time is impacted due to a religious holy day
- Last year the following students had one or more early dismissals from school in order to participate in interscholastic sports: 427 students in the fall, 475 students in the winter and 513 students in the spring
- Most sports teams would be affected if school began 30-90 minutes later. Athletes would require more frequent early dismissals and an increase in the loss of instructional time would occur.

Variable - Sports and Athletics

PRACTICE AND GAME TIME

- A later SST would require teams, town programs and other outside user groups and entities to compete for field and gym space
- Most teams maintain a two hour practice, so practice before school would not be ideal and would defeat the intended purpose for changing SST
- Many times teams share facilities and practice times are staggered to accommodate the demand for space
- During the fall season, four teams share the swimming pool for practice, beginning at 2:30 and ending at 9:45pm
- Athletic contest start and end times vary. For example freshmen basketball games begin at 4:00 pm, junior varsity at 5:30pm and varsity at 7:00pm
- Middle school game times begin at 3:15, so a later dismissal time could require early dismissals for sport participation.

STAFF AS COACHES

- Currently 36 GPS teachers are staffed as coaches serving 49 teams for our high school sport program

Variable - Contractual Obligations

Key implication findings are listed below. The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document-Page 5, http://www.greenwichschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Options Summary

- **Changing SST would not impact the teachers' or other collective bargaining unit's contract or contractual hours they are required to work.**
- **Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) allow for flexibility of staff working hours**
- **Staff hours could be adjusted to align with new start times outlined in options 1-5. The process to adjust staff hours is included in the CBA**
- **It is possible to adjust the teachers' contract in the middle of the contract cycle with no impact.**
- **Changing SST would have no different impact on itinerant staff**

Variable - Non-Contractual Issues & Staff

The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document- Page 6, http://www.greenwickschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Options Summary

Non-contractual issues and concerns are currently being investigated through a survey that will be administered to all GPS Staff to identify the impact of a change in school start times.

Variable -Before and After School Programs

Key implication findings are listed below. The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document- Page 7, http://www.greenwichschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Would parents require more before and/or after-school programs?

Options 1-4 YES

These SST options could require more families with elementary age school children to seek before and after school child care programs as the school day and work schedule no longer align with school hours. In addition, it has been reported that some high school students have childcare responsibilities for younger siblings.

- We currently have identified several before and after- school programs that offer child care to students in Greenwich
 - Old Greenwich Roman Catholic Church, AM- \$310-640 PM- \$680-1240
 - BANC \$50/year
 - YMCA \$150/year membership, \$295/month
 - YWCA &150/year membership (approx. \$500 per season)
 - Boys and Girls Club \$35.00/year, Accommodates 350 students, not Kindergarten
- Additionally, Option 1 would require the Boys and Girls Club to hire part-time employees, not GHS students as they currently do, to work in the after school program.

Variable -Before and After School Programs

Are After-school Programs impacted by a change in SST?

Options 1-4 YES

Examples:

Teacher support and tutoring

Religious classes

Private Instrumental lessons

Independent Clubs and Athletics

Community Service- 5 (Civics Class) 20 hours/per year (Aspiring National Honor Society Members)

Would the breakfast program be impacted?

Options 1-5 Minimal Impact

Employees would adjust their schedules to accommodate a new start time, which has no impact. Student participation in the breakfast program could increase after a change in SST and this could lead to an expansion of the program.

Would students have less time to access community services?

Options 1 -4 Minimal Impact

Variable - Extra-Curricular Activities

Key implication findings are listed below. The full set of implications currently being examined is listed in the Options, Variables and Implications Document- Page 7, http://www.greenwichschools.org/uploaded/district/School_Start_Times/SST_OVI_Grid-Final2.pdf

Would extracurricular activities be affected by a change in SST?

Options 1-4 YES

Currently, 18 clubs meet before school (approximately 360 students), 76 meet after-school (approximately 1500 students) and 2 meet in the evening (approximately 40 students) at GHS.

- Examples:
Music/Theater impact:

	Meets before school	Meets after school
Band	yes	yes
Orchestra	yes 4x/year	yes
Chorus	no	yes
Theater	no	yes

Can we fit more activities into the entire full day school schedule?

- Sports and activity clubs cannot be incorporated into the school day without a significant schedule change or an incorporated activity block

Next steps

Assignment 1

Facilitate Four Public Forums in the month of October

Western Forum Meeting- October 13

Eastern Forum Meeting- October 21

Morning Forum Meeting - October 23

Spanish Speaking Forum Meeting - October 27 (tentative)

Facilitate staff forum and a series of forums in November

Assignment 2

Monitor feedback and input from the community via forums and online tools to assess public stance on the six SST options

Assignment 3

Develop recommendations for SST to BOE

Assignment 4

If SST Change, detailed planning between January- June for implementation during the 2016-17 SY
