

Greenwich Public Schools
SST Steering Committee Meeting Notes
May 19, 2016

Attendance: Tom Bobkowski, Sophie Dowling, Valerie Erde, Diane Chiapetta-Fox, Mary-Stuart Freyberg, Jim Healy, Jim Hricay, Gus Lindine, Rick Piotrkowski, Susie Ponce, Gene Schmidt, Carol Sutton, Cynthia Womack and Bill McKersie

General Points of Discussion:

1. Approved May 3 meeting notes.
2. Dr. McKersie reviewed his recommendation on School Start Times that he sent to the BOE. Committee members gave the following feedback on the recommendation:
 - a. Mary-Stuart Freyberg requested we break out survey responses by high school, middle school and elementary school for the various options.
 - b. Chris Winters felt the preference for Option 6 was being disregarded.
 - c. Rick Piotrkowski is concerned that middle school sleep needs are not addressed in the recommended options.
 - d. Chris Winters asked if there is additional information our committee needs to provide to the BOE to help them make a decision.
 - e. Carol Sutton was concerned about the impact of attracting and retaining staff and the impact on teachers' ability to participate in after school sports practices and club meetings. We need to consider high school teachers' dislike of school dismissal after 2:45 pm.
 - f. Tom Bobkowski was concerned about late bus schedules if start times are moved and dropping students off in non-daylight hours in the winter.
 - g. Title I Elementary Schools currently start at 8:00 am. If start time is moved to 9:00 am how would this affect parents' ability to get to work? Gene Schmidt will ask elementary school principals what their thoughts are on the three recommended start time options and how a change in start times might affect before and after school programming.
 - h. Is it worth it monetarily to change start time by just half an hour? Some thought a 30 minute shift is more manageable; other feel a 30 minute shift is not worth it because it doesn't comply with AAP recommendation.
3. Going forward there will be a new project manager for School Start Times as Cynthia Womack is moving to Maryland in June. An RFP has been released requesting a project manager.

Next Meeting: June 10, 9:30 am – 11:15 am, Staff Development Room

