

Greenwich Public Schools
SST Steering Committee Meeting Notes
October 30, 2015

Attendance: Tom Bobkowski, Janice Domiziano, Sophie Dowling, Valerie Erde, Diane Chiappetta Fox, Mary-Stuart Freydberg, Tom Healy, Jim Hricay, Gus Lindine, Rick Piotrkowski, Susie Ponce, Gene Schmidt, Bob Stacy, Carol Sutton, Chris Winters, Cynthia Womack and Bill McKersie

General Points of Discussion:

1. Approved meeting notes from October 15, 2015.
2. Subcommittee Updates:
 - a. Update by Tom Bobkowski:
 - i. If we flipped Elementary School and High School start times, there would be 79 days in October through February during which children would be waiting at a bus stop in the dark.
 - ii. Still working on traffic report for traffic counts around GHS in the morning.
 - b. Update by Jim Hricay:
 - i. RFP for transportation consultant went out last week. It will likely be late winter/early spring 2016 before we get results.
3. Cynthia Womack gave stakeholder feedback from online comments and public forums:
 - a. 313 responses in online comments – 76.2% from parents, 14.5% GPS teachers/staff, 4.6% GPS students, 6.6% community members, 3.6% other. 107 pro SST change, 74 con SST change, 59 neutral, 29 other.
 - b. SST Committee held four public forums. Majority of speakers at forums were pro SST change.
 - c. Concerns:
 - i. Cost/impact on town budget
 - ii. Traffic congestion
 - iii. Parent commutes
 - iv. Don't want elementary school students going to school early/waiting for bus in dark/walking to school in dark
 - v. Will there be enough time for athletic practice?
 - vi. Process is too rushed
 - vii. Bus radius of 2 miles should be decreased. (SST Committee agreed we should ask transportation consultant to investigate increased cost of busing students who live less than 2 miles from GHS.)
 - d. Other ideas that emerged from forums/online feedback:
 - i. Consider middle school first at 8:00 then high school, then elementary
 - ii. Start middle and high schools 45 min later
 - iii. Start all elementary schools at same time

- iv. Start high school at 8:00 or 8:15
- 4. Carol Sutton gave Staff Survey Results:
 - a. 687 responses out of 1,350 staff (51% response rate)
 - b. Survey was open for two weeks
 - c. Majority of staff favor status quo
 - d. Staff concerns:
 - i. Impact on their commute
 - ii. Impact on child care and after school activities for their children and GPS students
 - iii. Real issues are student workload, course selection, time spent on electronic devices, stress, homework load, not school start time
 - iv. Later start time = students just stay up later
 - v. Early dismissal for athletics
 - vi. What would happen with preschool start times?
- 5. Chris Winters working with Student Body President and Class Presidents to develop student survey.
- 6. SST Committee agreed:
 - a. Continue to investigate SST change but not ready to make a change for 2016-2017. Waiting for student survey results and report from transportation consultant which will not be available until early 2016.
 - b. Agree based on community feedback not to change ES start to 7:30 am.
 - c. No final decision will be made on SST without ample opportunity for additional public input.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2015, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Board Room