

Greenwich Public Schools
SST Steering Committee Meeting Notes
September 17, 2015

Attendance: Tom Bobkowski, Jennie Byxbee, Jan Domiziano, Sophie Dowling, Valerie Erde, Mary Forde, Diane Chiappetta Fox, Mary Stuart Freydborg, Elana Gershon, Tom Healy, Jim Hricay, Gus Lindine, Rick Piotrkowski, Susie Ponce, Bob Stacy, Carol Sutton, Chris Winters, Cynthia Womack and Bill McKersie

General Points of Discussion:

1. Welcomed new members: Elana Gershon, Middle School Representative, and Susie Ponce, Elementary School Representative.
2. Bill McKersie announced that SST Steering Committee Meetings are open to the public.
3. Approved meeting notes from September 4, 2015.
4. Reviewed revised SST options. Agreed to remove survey results from each option.
5. Subcommittees shared updates on their findings:
 - a. Transportation Subcommittee gave a rough estimate of costs for additional buses for each option. Costs range from \$760,000 to \$3,600,000 for additional buses. (Each additional bus costs \$76,000 per year.) Subcommittee also looked at current runs/bus schedule and determined current schedule is most efficient. Awaiting current traffic counts from Traffic Enforcement. Noted that traffic increases on Post Road from 7:30 am – 9:15 am and on feeder roads to train stations (North Street, Riverside Avenue, Glenville, etc.)
 - b. Extracurricular Subcommittee shared a document showing which school activities occur before school: band sectionals each day from 6:30 – 7:30 am; water polo and swimming meet twice per week during season 6:15 am – 7:15 am for weights; 18 clubs meet in the morning; orchestra and band meet 4 mornings per year for dress rehearsals. Activities go each day at GHS until 8:30 or 9:00 pm. Concern that if all activities are moved to after school students will have to choose between sports and music programs.
 - c. Athletics Director Gus Lindine reported 1,900 students at GHS participate in sports during the school year (648 in fall, 517 in winter, 748 in spring). It's not possible to shift practices to before school (most practices are 2 to 2 ½ hours long). Loss of daylight hours during fall season would impact practice times and games. Concern among staff members who coach GHS teams that a later start would require earlier dismissal for games – impacts teaching time.
 - d. Bob Stacy reported there are no contractual obligations that would impact a later school start time.
 - e. Carol Sutton, Bob Stacy and Tom Healy reported it's difficult to answer how non-contractual issues would be affected – dependent on

- option chosen. Plan to develop staff survey to further investigate impact on non-contractual issues such as commute, family life/routines, etc.
- f. Committee was not able to hear reports re: Family Life and Childcare Arrangements, Student Employment, Building Operations, and Private Schools due to lack of time. Will hear reports in next meeting.
 - g. Cynthia Womack distributed Implication Responses to Options Worksheet to subcommittees so subcommittees will use a common template for gathering and reporting on implications and which SST options would be affected.
 - h. Survey Procedure – agreed that subcommittees will develop surveys if necessary to survey specific groups, e.g., staff, and then give to a few committee members for input. Valerie Erde and Chris Winters agreed to look at Staff Survey.
6. Committee discussed public forums to be held in October and November:
- a. Agreed we should add a Spanish only session and to try to offer childcare during the forums. Also agreed we would investigate whether to have meetings during the school days for those parents with younger children.
 - b. Format will be as follows:
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Sleep Science Information/Handouts
 - iii. Presentation of Options, Variables and Implications
 - iv. Public Comments
 - v. Closure and Next Steps
 - c. Panel will consist of Superintendent Bill McKersie, Cabinet Member Jim Hricay, Elementary/Middle School Administrator Tom Healy, GHS Representative Chris Winters, Teacher Carol Sutton. Also need Parent and Community Leader. Also will add representative from Athletic Department.

Next Meeting: September 30, 2015, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Staff Development Room