



Snoqualmie Valley

Public Schools

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TO: Dr. Manahan, Superintendent
FROM: Jeff Hogan and Ryan Stokes, Assistant Superintendents
RE: School Start Time Advisory Committee Update and Recommendation
DATE: January 16, 2019

The School Start Time Advisory Committee (SSTAC) held their eleventh meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019. After reviewing the committee charge, group norms, and the decision-making model, co-facilitators Assistant Superintendents Jeff Hogan and Ryan Stokes provided a brief recap of some of the work that has been undertaken by the committee over the course of the last 15 months. The work included:

- Studying the latest on Adolescent Sleep Research
- Reviewing SVSD students' tardiness, absenteeism, graduation rates, and Healthy Youth Survey results
- Exploring the implications of later start times on students (jobs, extra-curricular activities, traffic impacts, e)
- Conducting two stakeholder surveys in conjunction with Hanover Research
- Studying local school district trends (primarily East King County) on high school start and dismissal times
- Understanding the geographic challenges unique to SVSD and the differences between one-tier, two-tier and three-tier transportation systems (SVSD has a two-tier system)
- Assessing the implications of the regional shortage of school bus drivers
- Providing updates to the School Board
- Maintaining an up-to-date web-site on the work of the committee (<https://www.svsd410.org/Page/7212>)

After the recap, a transportation update was provided regarding a question that surfaced at the previous meeting. The question revolved around whether the return to three middle schools in fall of 2019 (with the re-opening of Snoqualmie Middle School) might create efficiencies and shorten the turnaround time needed between secondary and elementary bus runs? If so, they wondered if that adjustment would make it possible to start secondary schools 20 minutes later, (at 8:00 a.m.) without affecting the dismissal times at the elementary level.

Unfortunately, the SVSD Transportation Department determined that scenario would not be possible. They explained the current dismissal time of elementary and secondary bus runs only provide a 52-minute gap between picking up students at the secondary schools and dropping off those students at home, before buses must make their way to the elementary schools for student pickups. In addition,

changing the secondary school start time to 8:00 a.m. would push elementary dismissal times to 3:46 p.m., which many committee members were uncomfortable with given the stakeholder survey results.

Committee members spent the next hour discussing the importance of trying to find a way to make a shift to later start times, while also agonizing over the seemingly insurmountable obstacles with transportation logistics, costs, and lack of clear direction from the two stakeholder surveys.

Near the end of the meeting, a motion was made to recommend to the Superintendent “no changes” to school start times for the 2019-20 school year. After further discussion, the recommendation was amended to include that the District should continue to prioritize moving to later start times for secondary students in the future, in the event that solutions to transportation logistics problems can be resolved, and funding needs to make it happen be better understood. The amended motion carried unanimously by the committee, and the meeting adjourned.

Let us know if you have further questions about the process.