

Franklin Public Schools
Franklin School Committee

School Start Times Advisory Committee
Full Committee

Thursday, February 28, 2019
7:00 P.M.
FHS Principal's Conference Room

MINUTES

I. Call to Order - S Ahern called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Members Present: Sara Ahern, Miriam Goodman, Monica Linden, Jessica Pisano, Gigi Zub, Elizabeth Woelflein, Erica Monteiro, Jen DeBaggis, Kit Brady, Emily Ambrose, Ellen Gould

Members Absent: William Klements, Maria Weber, Oona Harrington, Donna Grady, Mary Jane Scofield, Rebecca Cameron, Tom Angelo

Student Liaisons Present: Grace Newton

Student Liaisons Absent: William Gardner, Conlon Hickey, William Olbrys

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Full Committee Meeting -- 1/17/19 motion by M Linden , second by J Pisano, approved (9-0-2 (Monteiro, Brady))
- b. Steering Committee -- 2/13/19 motion by M Linden, J Pisano (4-0-1 (Goodman))
- c. Subcommittee Meetings -- None for approval

- III. Debrief of Parent / Guardian Education Event - S Ahern and T Angelo spoke and preferred not to move sports to the morning as T Angelo felt that would defeat the purpose of shifting school start times. Concern was expressed that attendees did not appear to have read the information posted on the SSTAC website. Attendees seemed to be engaged, however, impressions were that people don't believe anything will be changing, so notification and spreading information was a concern. S Ahern will draft some talking points for distribution. Methods of communication include:
- School newsletters, Franklin's YouTube channel, Franklin TV, Milford Daily News, PCC messaging, School Committee Community Coffees

Audience questions raised to S Ahern focused on elementary start times, bus run start times, sports times, and the argument that HS students will stay up later anyway (phones, technology, etc.) S Ahern responded to all of the questions she received.

- IV. Survey Analysis - S Ahern shared the Parent/Guardian and the Faculty surveys. The group reviewed the survey responses based on scenarios A and B below. Disaggregated data was presented and discussion ensued:

Scenario A

| School Level | Current Time | Scenario A: Potential Time |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Elementary Schools | 8:30 AM - 2:40 PM | ↔ 7:45 AM - 1:55 PM |
| Middle Schools | 7:20 AM - 1:50 PM | ↔ 8:15 AM - 2:45 PM |
| Franklin High School | 7:35 AM - 2:05 PM | ↔ 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM |

Scenario B

| School Level | Current Time | Scenario B: Potential Time |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Elementary Schools | 8:30 AM - 2:40 PM | ↔ 7:55 AM - 2:05 PM |
| Middle Schools | 7:20 AM - 1:50 PM | ↔ 8:55 AM - 3:25 PM |
| Franklin High School | 7:35 AM - 2:05 PM | ↔ 8:25 AM - 2:55 PM |

The committee discussed the details of the Parent/Guardian Survey. Childcare data was discussed in response to the concern raised at the last meeting. There could be some overlap with HS students providing child care and also participating in after school activities, but the middle school student at home could alleviate some of this concern. The lack of flexibility in parent work schedules was noted.

S Ahern followed up with the group regarding Solutions tuition and indicated that it could increase from 4-14%, but impact of schedule change would be smaller. Payroll costs would increase in the afternoon. Morning Solutions would operate for 45 minutes max and there is some question as to whether this would continue to operate. This would be a loss in revenue. An 8:55 middle school start could allow middle school students to participate in Solutions which could offset additional afternoon payroll costs. When the appropriate time comes, C Nayler, Director of Lifelong Learning indicated a desire to survey Solutions parents.

The committee discussed the details of the Faculty Survey. Middle and High school staff seemed to be informed on the topic, however, some members of the committee felt that more education would be beneficial. The faculty's ability to participate in after school activities was noted. Middle school teachers seem to prefer Scenario B and High school teachers seem to prefer Scenario A. It was noted that the strongest response regarding overall feelings from teachers was neutral.

S Ahern shared some athletic data based on a conversation with T Angelo. Games would have to run concurrently vs. successively and would be a scheduled similarly to what is currently in place, but it would be shifted later if a change were to occur. No transportation cost increase is anticipated. Hockomock league bylaws requires a 3:45pm start but exemptions could be given. T Angelo felt that Scenario B is more manageable than Scenario A and would not require an early dismissal for teens on a regular basis. Most games begin at 3:30-3:45. Swim teams might have less time in the water under Scenario B. Scenario A would not support swimming at all. Gymnastics teams could have a staggered schedule based on what T Angelo could work out with the local gyms. Some games (basketball for example) would require an early dismissal for teens. The rotating HS schedule would minimize the instructional impact. When asked, T Angelo was not concerned about losing coaching staff due to a change in start times.

S Ahern summarized some talking points for publication and will distribute to the group:

- Six subcommittees explained
- Surveyed stakeholders and analyzed results
- March 26 report to School Committee
- Check the Website

E Gould spoke on behalf of the three district nurses who expressed concern for Scenario B based on the length of the day. Three nurses at the complex schools have an increased day to accommodate both middle and elementary school students.

V. Discussion of Next Steps

At the next meeting, the committee will review a draft report and formulate a recommendation to the school committee. S Ahern had a discussion with the town attorney who felt that this was a subcommittee of the school committee and members could vote to take action. Given that this group has complied with the Open Meetings Law, School Committee members on this subcommittee could vote on the recommendation, knowing they would officially vote at the School Committee meeting at a later date. Votes would not have to be the same as full school committee discussion and additional public input may change viewpoints.

The impact of changing start times would need to be bargained with the Franklin Education Association. Multiple solutions to address the impact of such a change could be discussed. There was a level of discomfort among some committee members about making a decision tonight given the short opportunity to review the data received tonight. Discussion will continue at the next meeting and if members were comfortable a recommendation could be

made. S Ahern encouraged the group to be upfront, honest and forthcoming with their comfort level.

S Ahern distributed a suggested outline of the summary paper to be written. A draft will be presented at the next meeting.

Next meeting to be held on March 14, 2019 at 7pm.

VI. Motion to adjourn by M Linden, second by E Monteiro (unanimous) at 8:38pm