

High School Start Time Working Group Update

**Teacher/Staff Surveys
&
Working Group Summary**

**Newton Public Schools
January 23, 2017**

Where we left off on Dec. 12th...

- Description of overarching challenge and charge given to HSST Working Group
- Community feedback on specific scenarios
 - No consensus found in partial data reported
 - Lower cost/least complex options have strong disadvantages
- Logistics and budget prohibit change for 2017-18 school year

Agenda for Today

- Overview of teacher/staff survey feedback
- Summary of working group initiatives
- Broad conclusions
- Discussion
- Next steps

Teacher/Staff Survey Results

- Concern among teachers of impacts to budget and changes to yearly schedule
- Staff split on best start time. Community shows stronger consensus on 8:30 start
- Teachers/staff frequently cite disadvantages for working parents

Teacher/Staff Survey Results

- Advantages and disadvantages recognized and understood for all scenarios
- Limited consensus on which trade-offs carry more weight
- No clear consensus on a scenario that works best for all (schools, students, staff, district.)

Our Priority: Student Well-Being

- Initiatives on social & emotional learning
- Active and increased supports for students in schools
- Improving home/school connections
- Managing homework levels
- Exploration of later high school start time (established HSST working group in 2015)

HSST WG – Charge and Goals

- Define changes necessary to move high school start time later in Newton
 - Gain full understanding of action steps and resources needed in short and long term
- Determine how meaningful progress can be made
 - Formulate detailed road map, which includes, cost and resources, as well as policy and legal implications

Work Conducted to Date

- 2015-16
 - Review of science and research
 - Surveys of students, teachers, parents
 - Outreach to community partners
 - Formulation of specific scenarios
- 2016-17
 - Information distributed online, email, in-person
 - Community input via forum, PTO meetings, surveys
 - Teacher/staff input via survey
 - Meetings with NTA, NESAs

Key Outcomes of HSST Work

- Raised awareness of sleep research
- Understanding of complexity of change (both internal and external)
- Significant feedback from all stakeholder groups (students, staff, families, community)
- Analysis of impact of change to budget, transportation, school schedules, student health/well-being

Conclusions

- The science behind sleep research is **compelling**
- **No broad consensus** among stakeholder groups on the following:
 - Whether change should be made
 - If change is made, which option is best
- Change **requires investment**, both financial and human capital

Discussion Points

- Sleep research
- Input from stakeholder groups
- District priorities and initiatives
- Financial impact