

# **Mashpee Public Schools: School Start Time Committee (SSTC)**

## **March 30, 2016 (3:30 – 4:45 PM) Quashnet Library (MINUTES)**

**PRESENT:** Don Myers, Patty DeBoer, Mark Balestracci, MaryKate O'Brien, Matt Triveri, Kristine Jones, Robin Geggatt, Wendy Lithwin, Marcy Dugas, Kristen Boyd, Sarah Provencher, Matt Auger, Tannah O'Brien, Mary Bradbury—Recreation Department, Carrie Gentile—Mashpee Enterprise, Amy Harris—Guest, Dr. Peter Edwards—Guest, Ruth Provost—Boys & Girls Club, Lloyd Wilson—Boys & Girls Club, Sharon DeFrancesco—Parent

**ABSENT:** Brian Brodie, Chris Santos (present for the last 5 minutes)

**3:36 PM:** Meeting opened; introductions

**3:40 PM:** 2/24/16 SSTC Meeting Minutes—reviewed/approved (Motion to approve: Kristen Boyd; 2nd: Matt Auger; All “yes”)

**3:41 PM:** The SSTC reviewed the summaries of the survey data collected from the staff and also from our parents/guardians

- Look at individual parent/guardian responses—connect comments with some demographic information—grade level(s) of respondent’s child(ren)—to help us better understand options chosen (Gail Hannan)
- Too many options provided to survey respondents
- Decide on perfect scenario—regardless of financial impact
- “Parents want this—they just don’t know it yet.”—Sarah Provencher
- Change is hard for everyone

- ✓ Conduct additional surveys as we move forward
- ✓ Schedule presentations for parents (structured)—Power Point with Q/A period
- ✓ Schedule Parent Coffees to continue the conversation around school start times (7:00 AM + 6:00 PM)
- ✓ Amy Harris (Harwich/Connecticut)—shared her experiences from Wilton, CT—How the League of Women Voters took up this issue and was successful in guiding the district’s decision-making.
- ✓ Dr. Edwards shared his expertise/knowledge on why a later start time for adolescent students is beneficial.
- ✓ Will there be any impact on custodial schedules/contracts if the school start times change?—Patty DeBoer to check with DPW Director Catherine Laurent
- ✓ Impact on current MPS contracts?? MMHS staff could hold their Monday staff meetings before school rather than after school (from 7:15 – 8:15 AM). This would allow for Monday after-school time to be used for sports and other extra-curricular activities. This would also apply to Quashnet and Coombs if their start time is 9:15 AM.
- ✓ Both the Recreation Department and the Boys & Girls Club would have to adjust their schedules—impacting staffing. (Depending on option chosen) The Club’s budget could also be impacted—more funds needed.
- ✓ Create/administer a MMHS student survey—send out link directly to each student’s email; Patty DeBoer will work with Tannah O’Brien and Principal Balestracci to develop the questions and schedule the survey (Double-block?). Possible questions:
  - Grade Level
  - Male/Female
  - Do you participate in sports?
  - Do you currently have an after-school job? If yes, what is your usual start time?
  - Are you involved with after-school activities?
  - What is the average amount of time you spend on homework?
  - What is the usual time that you go to bed?

- What is the usual time that you fall asleep?
  - Do you currently watch younger siblings/other students after school on a regular basis?
  - Start time options—gather student opinions
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- ✓ Matt Auger suggestion—This Committee needs to come forward with a recommendation and move forward from there.
  - ✓ Wendy Lithwin comment—Bus concerns—when very young students need to be returned to the school (No one is home.)
  - ✓ Marcy Dugas comment—Any studies of elementary-aged students and start times?
  - ✓ Amy Harris comment—In Connecticut, teachers provided input that they preferred CORE teaching time to be in the AM for elementary students.
  - ✓ Don Myers pointed out that we instituted free Pre-K for all Mashpee children with transportation provided at no cost.
  - ✓ We need to anticipate questions and know the answers to them before meeting with stakeholders. We would expect a stronger showing of parents who are opposed to changing school start times to attend parent meetings in order to ensure that their voices are heard.
  - ✓ Current consensus of the SSTC: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM School day for MMHS students; No change to the current QS/KCC school days—additional bussing cost: Approx. \$700,000
  - ✓ If Quashnet and Coombs start at 9:15 AM, we could provide before-school care combined with extra scoops of learning.

**4:40 PM:** Next meeting date selected—**Thursday, April 28, 2016** at 3:30 PM (Quashnet Library)

**4:45 PM:** Meeting adjourned

**APPROVED: 4/28/16**