

10/2/07 Meeting Minutes of the Slide Subcommittee

Roger Sims, Chair, reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. He mentioned that we had discussed slide times of 7:30 – 8:00am for the high school start time. Most of the opinions clustered at the 7:45am start time. It was pointed out that 8:00am was the most ideal start time for any secondary school levels. The Chair mentioned that even with a slide schedule, the schedule and routes would still need tweaking.

Concerns were expressed about the 8:00am ideal start time as traffic builds in the area after 7:30am. School staff would probably have to leave at same time that they leave now in order to get to school for a later start time that was only pushed back by 25 minutes. (7:45).

Perhaps it is time to say no to some services that are not mandated in terms of supplying transportation. What are the parameters of offering mandated and non mandated transportation? Perhaps length of time a student may spend on a bus is a parameter to be considered at more length.

How many stops are occurring at the high schools and for what purposes? How would later times affect academies and special programs offered at other schools? It was pointed out that sliding would squeeze the academic sensitive student...if they wanted to do after school activities but also had to make it to a teacher for extra help/after school remediation, which would the student be able to do?

There was discussion of premise of committee...are academics first? Do we put student learning first and then all other decisions come from that assumption? The well being of the whole child and not just academics should be taken into consideration. We shouldn't do away with activity availability in the name of instruction. Early release times for athletes and SACC impact with slide times were discussed.

Cooperation between school and community groups in terms of using ball fields, gyms and other facilities in common would be somewhat impacted though it was difficult to judge the total affect here. One group might lose out on using facilities with the slide due to issues of public use vs school, lighting, lateness of the hour, over crowding, cross scheduling, and population in the county without school age children. (over 70% of Fairfax residents do not have school age children).

T.J.'s schedule was talked about. The school starts later than other high schools but this may be because TJ students get transportation by going to their base schools and then on to TJ. It was suggested that we look at TJ scheduling for ideas on how to make that schedule work for the whole county.

The slide's effect on elementary schools was discussed in terms of later start times, SACC impacts, youth programs, after school activities, civil twilight, extra busses that might be needed to allow some elementary schools not to slide, parental work times. A It

was suggested that we research other counties that may have later start times ...Arlington was mentioned....for ways to implement the slide.

The committee discussed sleep deprivation and how this would affect student learning. It was noted that some students would still be sleep deprived even with later start time as they would have later athletic or community activities that they wanted to be involved in so would get home later, do studying later, etc... A slide back for high schools though may allow more parents to attend after school events as those would be happening later in the day.

Additional questions came up that were not readily answered...

Is a 25 minute slide time enough?

What will the cost impact be?

Do we need to worry about the cost impact?

Would it be possible to slide secondary but not slide elementary?

Could we do with just a two tier bus system not a 3 tier system?

What is the effect of grandfathering and the lack of a policy on the minimum number of students needed to run the bus. (Apparently there isn't a school board policy on the grandfathering and there isn't a school board policy on the number of students needed before a bus run is placed?) Need to check into this....

Can we get estimates from transportation on the costs of various iterations of a schedule?

What can be done about traffic in the county and how does the changing of start times affect the county overall? (More info from county transportation is needed and Roger agreed to get info for committee.)

It was suggested that committee members go over the documents from the web site before the next meeting. The next meeting will be October 9, 2007 at Gatehouse Administration Building, Room 1600.

Members in attendance were: Dick Reed, Rhonda Ross, Lory Monaco-Stevenson, Joe Swarm, Lisa Newmark, Jeff Todd, Roger Sims, Laura Floyd, Rhonda Dumont, Ken Campo, Bill Oehrlein, Jan McKee, John Berlin.