

Olathe Public Schools - Comprehensive Presentation Feedback Summary

Start/End Time Presentation 9/12/23

General Feedback:

1. Across the board, there's appreciation for the presentation, the leadership, and the thoroughness of the effort put into handling this complex topic.
2. Attendees praised the professionalism, efficiency, and transparency, even as some communicated concerns about the drastic differences between options.
3. There's unanimous recognition of the need for change and the challenge in finding the best solution.

Key Points & Questions Raised:

1. **Stark Differences Between Options:** Concerns were vocalized about the drastic shift in middle school timings between Option A and Option B. While Option A seems manageable with a 15-30 minutes change, Option B's 65-minute shift for middle school is seen as a major disruption.
2. **Implications of Open Enrollment:** Questions arose about the impact of potential state requirements regarding open enrollment on the proposed changes.
3. **Bus Schedules & Ridership:** There were queries about:
 - Potential increases in ridership due to time changes.
 - Exact timings of bus routes and duration of rides.
 - Possible use of assisted transport to address driver shortages.
4. **Before-School Care & Preschool Timings:** Some parents were concerned about the timings of before-school care, especially if elementary starts are delayed. There's also recognition that local preschools might adjust timings based on the district's decision.
5. **High School Staggered Start:** A suggestion was raised about the possibility of a staggered start for high school to accommodate various needs.
6. **Teachers' Personal Challenges:** Concerns were expressed about teachers' ability to manage personal schedules, especially those with young children, considering the proposed changes.

Additional Observations:

1. Attendees displayed empathy towards the leadership, acknowledging the magnitude of the decision.
2. Feedback often emerged from multi-faceted perspectives, indicating roles as parents, teachers, and community members.
3. A strong inclination towards data-driven, equitable decisions that prioritize the greater good.

Concluding Remarks: The collected feedback paints a portrait of a community that, while acknowledging the urgent need for change, also seeks clarity, thoroughness, and consideration in decision-making. The Olathe community values minimal disruption, informed choices, and the well-being of students, teachers, and families. Transparent communication and addressing raised concerns will be crucial in the forthcoming steps.