WHY?
MEETING #2 - SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
WHY?: Recap

• Access and equity
• Staffing challenges
• The impact on secondary schools
• Long-term strategy
• Systemic change is hard
• Wear your big picture hat tonight
Tonight’s agenda

• Review feedback from the SESG
• Follow up on routing times/HS example
• Review MS and HS student input
• Review parent survey data
• Review staff survey data
• Breakout into level groups:
  • EC/Elementary – auditorium
  • Middle school – 6th grade pod (upper level)
  • High school – library (upper level)
General Feedback:

• Across the board, there's appreciation for the presentation, the leadership, and the thoroughness of the effort put into handling this complex topic.

• Attendees praised the professionalism, efficiency, and transparency, even as some communicated concerns about the drastic differences between options.

• 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.
High School Routing
MEETING #2 - SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
High School Third Tier

Elementary School & HLC  7:25am – 2:25pm

Middle School & HMC  8:05am – 3:05pm

High School & PLC  8:55am – 3:55pm

148  Current Drivers  2023
163  Drivers Required
53  Triple
70  Double
40  Single

Field Trip Availability  9:05-1:55pm

Drivers Required

Triple
Double
Single
High School has 50% of all single routes, averaging 64 minutes in length.

Elementary School = 45 buses
Route time range = 16-51 minutes

Middle School = 46 buses
Route time range = 18-64 minutes

High School = 57 buses
+ sports shuttles
Route time range = 25-75 minutes

Field trip buses available from 9:10 – 1:55pm reduces opportunity for ES, MS, EC

Limits afternoon JCPRD staffing

Older students not available when younger siblings dismiss

No bus availability for MS sports until 5pm

Does not align with Sunflower League – students miss 2+ hours of class time

HS students home approx. 5pm, limits after school employment and activities

Limits day shuttle availability for SpEd related services, i.e. CREWS, RISE, CONNECT, CBI

Early Childhood classes in early tiers

Some interventions may be retained
High School Second Tier

Middle School & PLC  
7:25am – 2:25pm

High School & HMC  
8:05am – 3:05pm

Elementary School & HLC  
8:55am – 3:55pm

Drivers Required

- 148 Current Drivers 2023
- 158 Drivers Required
- 39 Triple
- 76 Double
- 54 Single

Field Trip Availability
8:15-1:55pm
Route Example: Olathe Northwest 2022–2023

General Education Only

14 Routes

297 Stops

607 Students
Route Example: Olathe East 2022–2023

11 Routes
253 Stops
486 Students

General Education Only
Route Example: Olathe South 2022–2023

7 Routes
162 Stops
271 Students

General Education Only
Route Example: Olathe West 2022–2023

General Education Only

8 Routes
156 Stops
368 Students
Route Example: Olathe North 2022–2023

General Education Only

15 Routes
310 Stops
707 Students
Current Proposal: Option A

High School & PLC  
7:40am – 2:40pm

Middle School & HMC  
8:20am – 3:20pm

Elementary School & HLC  
8:55am – 3:55pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers Required</th>
<th>158 Drivers Required</th>
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<tr>
<td>Triple</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
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<td>Single</td>
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Field Trip Availability  
7:50-2:10pm
Current Proposal: Option B

High School & PLC  7:40am – 2:40pm

Elementary School & HMC  8:20am – 3:20pm

Middle School & HLC  8:55am – 3:55pm

149 Drivers Required

148 Current Drivers 2023

29 Triple

82 Double

38 Single

Field Trip Availability 7:50-2:10pm

Drivers Required

2023

33 min

28 min

149
Student Input
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Student Input

Method:

Our secondary principals ran focus groups to collect student input on the start and end time discussion. The same PowerPoint and data collection was used across all 5 hs's and all 10 ms's. After learning more about the “why” for the start/end time change, Students used a qr code to provide input.
According to the feedback received, middle school students tend to prefer earlier start times and earlier dismissal times.
Middle School Students Preferred Bell Schedule

- **7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.**: 249
- **8:25 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.**: 148
- **8:55 a.m. to 3:55 p.m.**: 32
High School Student Input: Start and End Times

According to the feedback received, high school students strongly prefer earlier start times and earlier dismissal times.
High School Student Input: Bell Schedule

High School Students Preferred Bell Schedules

- 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.: 195
- 8:25 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.: 73
- 8:55 a.m. to 3:55 p.m.: 13
Parent Survey:

Olathe Public Schools Parent Survey - School Start/End Times Feedback

Olathe Public Schools is seeking input from all families regarding a shift in school start/end times at all levels beginning in the 2023-24 school year as we work together to find a solution to transportation challenges impacting equal access to educational opportunities for all students (including access to field trips/transportation, access to pedestrian transportation at all levels, access to free transportation to 21st Century Programs, etc.).

We want to hear your feedback to help inform decisions moving forward. The district has formed committees at all three levels (early childhood/elementary, middle and high school), comprised of teachers, parents, administration and certified and classified staff members, to further study community and staff input and form a recommendation to bring to the Board of Education by the end of the year. Please take 5 minutes to complete this survey. All feedback is anonymous. The survey will close on Friday, Sept. 22 at 5 p.m.

For your reference, the district’s current start/end times are:
- High: 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Middle: 7:30 a.m.–2:10 p.m.
- Elementary: 8:25 a.m.–3:40 p.m.

Please take a moment to watch this video message from Superintendent Dr. Yeager.

Open From 9/18-9/22
7302 Responses
3286 Written Responses
Which level best describes your child(ren)? Check all that apply

- **Early Childhood**: 434
- **Elementary School**: 4417
- **Middle School**: 2351
- **High School**: 2953
- **Other**: 29
Parent Survey: Question 2 & 3

Does your child currently ride the bus to school?

- Yes, 1303, 18%
- No, 5999, 82%

Would your child ride the bus to school as a payride passenger if the district reinstituted payride transportation for eligible students who live under 2.5 miles from school?

- Yes, 1206, 17%
- No, 4267, 58%
- Maybe, 1220, 17%
- N/A, 609, 8%
Parent Survey: Question 4

Please select the schedule option you would be most supportive of beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

- Option A, 3019, 41%
- Option B, 2700, 37%
- No Preference, 1583, 22%
1. Concerns Over Elementary School Start Times:

- **Safety Concerns**: Parents raised concerns about younger children walking in the dark or during inclement weather, especially if they live just outside the bus service zone.

- **Impact on Working Parents**: Many parents mentioned the logistical challenges late start times would pose, including difficulty in arranging childcare and adhering to standard work hours. Parents emphasized the reliance on before/after school care and expressed concern about limited spots.

- **General Preference**: A considerable number of responses indicated a preference for earlier start times for elementary students, citing the natural wake cycle of younger children and the need for parental supervision.

2. High School Start Times and Sleep Needs:

- **Need for Later Start**: Several comments cited research indicating the benefits of later start times for teenagers due to their sleep patterns. The earlier start time proposal for high school students was seen as counterproductive to their wellbeing.

- **Extracurricular Activities**: Concerns were raised about high school students who engage in after-school activities, sports, or part-time jobs, emphasizing the limited time they’d have in the evening.

3. Middle School Concerns:

- **Siblings and Transportation**: There were mentions of older siblings helping in dropping off/picking up younger ones. Changes in middle school timings might disrupt this setup.

- **Supervision Needs**: Like elementary students, there were concerns about middle school students needing supervision, particularly if start times were significantly later.
4. Busing and Transportation:
   - **Need for Busing Options**: Several parents stressed the importance of reintroducing busing options, especially for those not served due to the 2.5-mile rule or due to removal of the pay-to-ride service.
   - **Bus Company Issues**: A number of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the bus company, suggesting the district should explore alternatives or hold the company accountable.

5. Broader Organizational and Logistical Concerns:
   - **Multiple Kids in Different Schools**: Parents with children in different school levels discussed the logistical nightmare of coordinating pick-ups and drop-offs with varying start and end times.
   - **Potential Solutions**: Some comments suggested solutions like considering school boundaries, introducing a four-day school week, or looking at school crossing guards availability.
   - **Distrust and Frustration**: There was palpable frustration in some comments, feeling that decisions were already made, distrust in the school board, and threats of leaving the school system.

6. Miscellaneous Feedback:
   - **Teacher's Perspective**: Concerns were raised about teachers' ability to manage changes, especially those who are parents themselves and have to coordinate with their children's schedules.
   - **Acknowledgment**: While there was criticism, some parents acknowledged the district's efforts and the challenges they face in trying to accommodate everyone's needs.
Staff Survey

MEETING #2 - SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
Staff Survey:

Olathe Public Schools Staff Survey - School Start/End Times Feedback

Olathe Public Schools is seeking input from all staff regarding a shift in school start/end times at all levels beginning in the 2022-23 school year. We want to work together to find a solution to transportation challenges impacting equal access to educational opportunities for all students, including access to field trips, transportation access for special education students, and transportation at all levels, access to the 21st Century Program, etc.

We are asking for your feedback to help determine options moving forward. The district has formed committees at all levels (early childhood/elementary, middle, and high schools), comprised of teachers, parents, administrators, and certified and paraprofessional staff members. We encourage community staff input. Olathe Public Schools is a charter school district. The Board of Education meets the last Wednesday of each month.

For your reference, the district’s current start/end times are:
- High: 6:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Middle: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Early Childhood: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please note: The teacher contract day is a negotiated item to be discussed by Professional Council and ratified by the bargaining unit and Board of Education.

Section 1

Please take a moment to watch this video from Superintendent Dr. Brent Yaeger

Open From 9/18-9/22

2771 Responses

1292 Written Responses
What type of position do you hold in the Olathe Public Schools?

- Certified, 2059, 74%
- Classified, 712, 26%
Staff Survey: Question 2

Which building do you work in?
Staff Survey: Question 3

Please select the schedule option you would be most supportive of beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

- Option A, 1196, 43%
- Option B, 1168, 42%
- No Preference, 407, 15%
Key Concerns

1. **Altered Contract Hours:**
   - Staff are worried about the change in their contract hours and how it will affect their personal schedules and commitments.

2. **Childcare Issues:**
   - The new schedule could create significant childcare challenges for staff members, particularly those with young children.

3. **Impact on Extracurricular Activities:**
   - Concerns were raised about the potential negative effect on middle and high school sports and other extracurricular activities due to altered school timings.

4. **Student Supervision and Safety:**
   - Staff expressed worries about younger students being left without supervision, especially if elementary schools get out before middle schools.

5. **Need for More Options:**
   - Respondents are seeking more scheduling options, including a four-day school week or different starting times for high schools in line with adolescent sleep research.

6. **Transparent Decision-Making Process:**
   - There is a call for a more transparent, inclusive, and thorough decision-making process, ensuring all concerns and suggestions are considered.
Breakout sessions

- **Early childhood and Elementary school** – remain in the auditorium
- **Middle school** – upstairs in the 6th grade pod
- **High school** – library

* wrap up by 8:00 and dismiss from our breakout locations. A QR code will be given at the end of each session for questions, feedback, etc.