

School Start Times for September 2022 Task Force Report



School Committee Meeting
February 9, 2022

Agenda

- Timeline, objectives, and process of this work from 2017-2022
- Finalized times from Task Force for September 2022
- Report on Extended Day
- Update on operational considerations

Timeline

- This work began in **February 2017** under the recommendation of Superintendent Jim Hayden and with unanimous approval of the School Committee to create a subcommittee to research start times.
- The Subcommittee conducted research, forums, and surveys May 2017-June 2018.
- In June 2018, the SC unanimously agreed the work should continue and directed Superintendent Thomson to create a comprehensive Task Force.
- The Task Force work spanned September 2018- Feb 2022.
 - Initial targeted implementation date was Sept. 2019; but due to the operational override the Task Force shifted the recommendation to Sept. 2020.
 - Then, the pandemic started and the Task Force work was temporarily paused.
 - When it resumed in fall 2020 under the unanimous support of the SC, the Task Force reassessed and recommended either September 2021 or September 2022.
- **On March 10, 2021, the majority of the School Committee voted for the implementation date of September 2022.**

Objectives

- It is recommended by the Center for Disease Control(CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics(AAP) to have **middle and high schools start school at 8:30am or after**. The goal for NPS is to achieve this recommended target as closely as we can, **without shifting elementary school more than an hour earlier than current** start times for them.
- The Task Force was charged by Dr. Thomson with determining how school start times could be adjusted while remaining **budget neutral** for NPS and to **adhere to the Override Pledge**.
- From the beginning, it has been important to NPS to have a **comprehensive Task Force** and to **engage all stakeholders** in forums and surveys, and to provide online presentations and documents.

Recap of Transportation Analysis

A thorough analysis was done by the NPS transportation director and with consultation of Connolly busses. Five different options, as detailed in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the District Start Times website, were reviewed by the Task Force and presented to the School Committee.

Aspects that must be considered:

- A bus fleet of 13
- Special education transportation requirements
- Legally required to bus St. Catherine's
- Middle School bus registrations are the highest and therefore require it either starts first or last in the tiers
- Runs between HS and CMS drop off require at least 30 minutes
- Willett adds an additional tier
- Time on Learning requirements from DESE must be met
- If we started all schools at the same time, it would require an additional 2.5 million a year in the budget
- The only way to achieve the objectives is to implement district-wide changes

District Operations Shift Later

- With current start times, CMS students get picked up starting at 6:35am and drop off begins to happen at 7:05am. Staff is required to be in school by 7:10am.
- With the shift in times next school year, no student in the district will be at the bus stop as early and no student or staff member will be required to be in any school building as early.
- With the shift in times next school year, elementary staff won't be required to be in the schools until 7:35am. Students won't begin to be dropped off until 7:35. First bus pick up (exact times to be finalized) won't be before 7:10am.

Ranges Already Approved

At the March 10, 2021 meeting, the SC unanimously approved these ranges. The SC approved to implement the changes in September 2022, and not in September 2021 to provide staff and the community 18 months' notice, to prepare for the impact of the time change.

Elementary school start time: 7:40-7:50/1:55 pm dismissal*

Willet School start time 8:00-8:10/ 1:30 pm dismissal*

High School start time 8:10-8:20/ 2:50 pm dismissal*

Coakley start time 8:40-8:50/ 3:20 pm dismissal *

Note: end times are approximate and may shift 5-10 minutes in either direction based on ongoing review of bell schedules and further transportation analysis.

Task Force Report

- Finalized times from Task Force
- Report on Extended Day
- Update on other operational considerations

Task Force Members

Dr. Hugh Galligan, HS Principal

Dr. Margo Fraczek, CMS Principal

Bryan Riley, Prescott Principal

Nancy Coppola, Cleveland Principal

Ryan Quigley, Grades 6-12 Wellness Chair

Catherine Connor-Moen, Fine Arts Director

Jonathan Longley, Athletics Director

Al Bishop, Transportation Director

Sylvia Delaney, Kristen Capezio, Debbie Holzendorf, Extended Day
Directors

Eli Norris, Food Services Director

Paula Flanagan, Parent Representative

Jhostin Baez, Student Representative

Sigalle Reiss, Department of Health Director

Dr. David Thomson, Superintendent

Teresa Stewart, SC member

Task Force Finalized Times for September 2022 Implementation

Elementary schools start time 7:50- 2:05 pm dismissal

Willett School start time 8:10- 1:40 pm dismissal

High School start time 8:15- 2:50 pm dismissal

Coakley Middle School start time 8:45- 3:20 pm dismissal

No changes to Little Mustangs Preschool Academy

NPS is responsible for bussing students to St. Catherine's. Their start times are not changing. They will continue to begin their day at 7:50 and end at 2:25.

Similar Elementary Start Times

**Ashland- 7:55

Barnstable/ Monomoy- 7:45

**Bellingham- 8:00

Beverly- 7:55

Burlington- 7:50-8:10 (*different elementaries start at different times*)

**Dover-Sherborn- 7:50

Duxbury- 7:45

**Holliston- 7:30

Nauset Regional- 7:45

Sudbury- 7:55

Wayland- 7:55

Westborough- 7:45

Weston- 8:00

St. Catherine's in
Norwood- 7:50

***Districts in the TriValley League who have already completed this work, and pulled elementary earlier as secondary shifted later. Additionally, all four of these districts have middle schools that start between 8:10-9:15.*

Extended Day

Implementation in September 2022

- Morning Extended Day will be offered at the five elementary schools for students grades K-5 from 7-7:35.
- After school Extended Day will be offered at all five elementary schools and at the Willett.
 - ◆ A tiered system will be available, with parents registering for either a 2-4pm or 2-6pm block for their grades 1-5 students; and either a 1:45-4, or 1:45-6 block for their K students.
- There will be **no fee increase** for Extended Day next school year. For school year 22-23 it will remain \$7 an hour as previously approved by the School Committee.

Extended Day Implementation in September 2022

- Expansion of Extended Day is being planned.
- Morning Extended Day will be offered at CMS.
- The fee will be \$7.00 an hour.
- Analysis is being conducted by Dr. Fraczek and Extended Day Director, Debbie Holzendorf to determine the exact hours of this service.

Update on Other Operational Considerations

- Athletics
- This initiative aligns time on learning at the HS and CMS to each have 6 hours and 35 minutes
- Elementary logistics



Questions?