

Frequently Asked Questions....School Start Time

1. Will the BOE take actions on this issue on Tuesday, June 20?

The *School Start Advisory Committee* shared their finding with the BOE on Tuesday, June 6 with a detailed presentation on the research, student voice, and potential transportation changes. This evening the board will continue to discuss the issue and may or may not take action at the close of their discussion.

2. Could the board take action for the upcoming school year?

Yes

3. Did the advisory committee recommend any changes for private schools in Newtown?

No, the committee has worked with private school leadership and there are no recommended changes.

4. What exactly drove this study and why?

The study was directed by a school board charge to research adolescent sleep needs and the present start time of NHS and NMS.

5. How did the committee reach their recommendations?

Multiple stakeholders weighed in on the issue as students and parents were surveyed, NPS staff had updates within their faculty meetings, and the BOE held three community forums as intake within the process.

6. Will bus runs become shorter or longer?

The advisory committee has recommended multiple options for transportation within the plan. Presently, the NHS / NMS Tier 1 would minimally change as students in grades 7-12 would continue to ride the bus together with each bus having a stop at both schools.

The second tier would include grades K-6 with each bus stopping at RIS and one of our four elementary schools. Multiple measures and options have been developed with safety and ride time being the cornerstone of each option.

All routes will be optimized for efficiency and there would be numerous bus stop changes for the new school year.

Within the options which the board will consider there is an expectation that Tier 1 riders will have a minimum increase of time and Tier 2 riders (depending on the option and depending on if the route is before school or after school) would have anywhere from a minimum increase to some students on the bus for an additional 15-20 minutes.

Within all options the intent is that no ride would be designed beyond 55 minutes.

7. How does this impact cost?

The recommended plan to the board by the committee is cost neutral.

8. Have BOE partners (before school EdAdvance programs, partial day programs, Ag Sci, etc.) been involved in the discussion and if the BOE takes action for the new school year are plans in place for each entity?

Yes

9. Is there a place I can find additional information on this work?

Yes, detailed minutes of meetings and documents can be found on the NPS website.

10. Will I be updated on the outcome of this work?

Yes, the superintendent will be updating all stakeholders on Wednesday, June 21