



Minutes

Potential Bell Time Change Consultation

Date: January 17, 2012

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

Location: Catholic Education Centre

Attendance: 19

Concerns Raised by Parents and Staff:

- Rather than change bus times, would like to see the walking distance increased to save money.
- Parents may not be able to pick up children anymore after school.
- This session conflicted with some school run daycare meetings.
- Secondary students would not be able to pick up elementary students after school.
- Daycare is not readily available. Not as many home day cares who do after school care.
- It could be difficult to get young children out the door in time for 8:00 a.m. start.
- Parents uncomfortable with elementary students staying home alone for the longer period of time after school.
- Parents who run home day cares will need to reschedule parent drop offs around their child's new bell time. Children in their care may have nap times that conflict with earlier bell times.
- Reasonable time would be 8:30 a.m. for an elementary start.
- Secondary students should be taught responsibility, not allowed to sleep in.
- The earlier start for elementary students, means an early bedtime, meaning less family time in the evenings.
- Understand we are looking for efficiencies but would rather see a smaller shift. Only move a single school by 15 minutes.
- Concerns for secondary student jobs starting at 4:00 p.m.
- Secondary students with chronic lateness will not change with later start.
- Secondary students sometimes stay up to 2am for social reasons and this habit will not change..
- Small children will need to catch the bus when it is still dark out in the morning, this could be a safety concern.
- Could create a financial toll on parents – day care costs.
- Parents would like to see us saving money in other ways. It is irresponsible for parents to ask the board to keep seats open on the bus when the kids never use the bus. Fewer buses could be contracted if the seats were given up.

- Could be difficult for WCDSB employees who have a school that starts before their children start.
- Families with early elementary starts and late secondary starts will have children hungry for dinner at different times. Includes concerns for early elementary lunch times.
- Secondary students who babysit afterschool will lose their jobs.
- We are not going to get a true sense of issues and what the impact it will be until actual proposed school times are released.
- Potential for parents to choose public board because they like the bell times better.
- Complexities for special needs children to be ready for earlier bell times
- Less time for breakfast for elementary students – not all schools allow healthy snacks at desk.
- Potential change was not well advertised
- Parent would like the Ministry to know that the expectation to reduce costs is unfair to parents.

Requests from Parents:

- Another public session
- Increase the size of the focus group. Include parents and staff from each city.
- Results of the survey posted publicly
- Options available for parents who do not speak English to voice an opinion.
- To see what the cost savings would go toward.