



Lexington Public Schools

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Dear Lexington School Community:

At the School Committee meeting on Tuesday night, we discussed a later start time for all Lexington High School students. I am writing to let you know that a proposed later start solution will be discussed with the School Committee at their next meeting on October 30, 2018. The proposed option would allow for a 45-minute later start and end to the school day (8:30 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.) for all Lexington High School students and staff in the 2019 - 2020 school year. Additionally, there would be a modest (approximately 5-15 minutes) later start and end time for elementary school students next year (2019 - 2020). We do not anticipate any significant change to middle school schedules next year.

Background

During the 2017 - 2018 school year, the School Start Time Task Force, a team of dedicated educators, administrators, town and school community members, studied the possibility of a later school start for Lexington High School students. The task force identified and publicly advanced a preferred cost-neutral option that essentially flipped the schedules of elementary and high school students. Several community conversations took place soon thereafter, but no decision was made at that time.

In August 2018, the School Committee adopted a resolution acknowledging the physical, social and emotional benefits of a later start for high school-aged students, as well as the School Committee's desire to maintain the current start and end times for elementary and middle school students. In keeping with the parameters of the resolution, the School Committee authorized the use of a consultant to conduct a transportation efficiency study designed to identify transportation cost-saving measures that could help to offset increased transportation expenses for high school students, without significantly impacting elementary and middle school schedules.

The administration has reviewed the preliminary findings of the transportation efficiency study, and we have identified a low-cost solution that maximizes our current transportation contract without significantly impacting the schedules of the elementary and middle school students. The consultant will be sharing detailed information about this low-cost option with the School Committee next week.

Next Steps

- October 30, 2018 - the transportation consultant will present his preliminary findings on the transportation efficiency study to the Lexington School Committee. As with any School Committee meeting, the public is invited and encouraged to attend. While this will be a

regularly scheduled meeting of the School Committee, it is important to note that it will not be a public forum on the matter. The community is invited to offer their thoughts and opinions during the “Community Speak” portions of our agenda, which typically occur at the top of every hour.

- October 30, 2018 - November 5, 2018 - Principals will provide their respective staffs with an overview on a later school start and end times. Voluntary meetings will be held at the elementary schools and the high school, creating an opportunity for all faculty and staff members to weigh in, offer their insights, and help to identify any potential challenges.
- November, 2018 - the Lexington High School administration will hold IBlock sessions to seek student input. Students also will be encouraged to respond to the survey.
- November 5, 2018 - a “Later Start Time Public Forum” will be held in the Science Lecture Hall at Lexington High School from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. All members of the school community are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts about a 45-minute later start at Lexington High School and a modest (possibly 5-15 minute) later start at the elementary schools.
- November 20, 2018 - a “Later Start Time Public Forum” will be held at the Selectmen’s Meeting Room from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. All members of the school community are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts about a 45-minute later start at Lexington High School and a modest (possibly 5-15 minute) later start at the elementary schools.
- December 4, 2018 - the Lexington School Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. A brief presentation will be made and the School Committee will take a vote on a 45-minute later school start at Lexington High School and a modest (possibly 5-15 minute) later school start and end time at the elementary schools in the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Community Input/Feedback

As we move through the final phases of our later start decision-making process, please know that your feedback is important to us. We encourage you to attend a School Committee meeting, a public forum, or simply share your thoughts and ideas via this survey link:

<http://bit.ly/2RleXMn>

We are grateful for the community’s interest and engagement, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts, questions and ideas.

Sincerely,



Dr. Julie Hackett
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