Topic:  School Start TIme

Meeting Date: 11/9/19 1pm

Background:  The district has been exploring the implications of a later high school start time based on research suggesting that older adolescents’ academic success and social-emotional well-being may benefit from more sleep.

Today’s meeting was the continuation of a focus group from August 2019 to determine the best way to engage the community on their opinions of the research previously conducted as well as the options presented by the Consultants hired by the district to explore options on later high school start times.

Members of the community as well as Dr Rogers, Ms Manion, Dr. Ruffo and Tricia Williams spoke about a forthcoming email to the community with background information on the topic including links to medical and social science research, previous district presentations on this topic, as well as logistical and other factors to be considered by the public. The group suggested some additions and changes to the letter that will be reviewed by the administration.

Ultimately, the three options are as follows:

* Maintain the status quo
* Shift the high school start time, resulting in disruption to other schools’ schedules and compromise related to after school activities
* Shift the high school start time without disrupting other schools; scheduled but with considerable cost for added busing and compromise related to after school activities

The group also tested a new software tool called Thought Exchange that the district has learned was successful in other school districts who have engaged their communities on similar topics. This software will allow the district to analyze the community’s anonymous thoughts and opinions of later start times.

More specifics on a launch date of this email and Thought Exchange will be forthcoming.