

School Council Meeting
May 3rd 2016
Bussing changes and school opening times

Welcome guests by Andrew Hickey
Introductions of Committee Members

Special unscheduled meeting to share NLESD proposal to change HTH opening time to 9AM and dismiss 3:05

Mr. Hickey explained the concept of double runs VS single runs and the projected savings NLESD expects to recoup in having double runs.

Contracts are up for renewal with busing companies so options are being explored. Bus contracts are multi year contracts so changes for the new middle school need to be considered now.

Debbie Martin NLESD will accept any feedback from tonight's meeting via our committee chair.

Guests indicated they had emails from other parents. A Facebook group has been formed and is building momentum - many parents are opposing this schedule change.

Parents indicated Mr. Hickey and Ms. Peddle have replied promptly to parental emails and comforted that concerns would be passed on but NLESD has not offered consultation or any reason why the high school cannot continue to open early opposed to later.

Concerns:

Parents are unhappy that there is an impression that this decision has been made with no parental consultation. Parents are frustrated that their opinions are not valued.

Major concern that there is not enough daycare capacity/infrastructure in this area to handle the need for safe and adequate child care that this schedule change will create.

Parents in this area have a longer drive to work as most work in the metro area and this schedule change will make it more difficult, they don't have the option to come home early to pick kids up that cannot be accommodated for care.

Parents indicated that there is not enough day care in the school community for working parents so other options will have to be explored for after school care. Some parents cannot afford the extra day care. Opening early in the morning and then day care on top of homework etc... will make a small child's day outside the home about 3 hours longer.

Families will have to put children to bed around 7 PM to get the children up in the morning for an early start.

Childcare for younger children and cost that could have been covered by an older child if they were home to do so and with the recent budget this cost makes things less affordable and the impact will be felt parents need justification for the high school opening last.

Parents asked who is on the HTE School council and were directed to the school website. A list was printed from their website and parents were directed to a link on the HTE website.

Parents indicated that HTH and the new school should both open early at 8:10 and leave the smaller kids to start later.

Getting out later impacts high school students in their ability to get to extracurricular/team sports, part time jobs, etc...

Parents plan to investigate the wait lists in local day cares they feel certain that's not a viable option in our area

School Council will accept compiled copies of concerns via Patricia Mahon's email address or for Cape St. Francis School via Corina Martin.

Andrew - received 5 letters, Peggy received two letters of which can be used in our school council letter.

Patricia will contact Debbie Martin at NLESD and ask why HTH and the new middle school couldn't both open early to avoid the afterschool issues.