

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: Thanks from D39 Social Work Department
Date: April 12, 2017 at 4:34:24 PM CDT
To: Hilary Skilbeck Harvey <harveyh@wilmette39.org>

Hello Hilary,

I am glad you appreciated the behavioral support we added to HMS recently. I need to clarify a few points. First, this is a "stop gap" effort to assist with short-term behavioral concerns at HMS. Mid-year, whenever we have critical needs, we add temporary support. This continues to be a temporary support to assist with a short-term need. We will not be recommending a permanent SW addition to HMS.

Second, while the person we are using is a licensed Social Worker, the support was not intended to be a social work position. This need was specifically designed for behavioral supports. I am sorry, as I thought all of this was clarified with HMS staff before support was added. I have asked Dr. Thrasher to reach out to you again tomorrow to clarify.

Thank you for sharing your appreciation, and I am confident that the added support will help us toward a successful end to the school year.

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Apr 12, 2017, at 3:41 PM, Hilary Harvey <harveyh@wilmette39.org> wrote:

Dear Dr. Lechner, Dr. Thrasher, and District 39 Board of Education Members:

We, the Social Worker Department of District 39, are writing to express our sincere appreciation and support for the recent decision by the board of education to hire an additional social worker for Highcrest Middle School. During the past few years, we have seen increases in both the number of students needing social and emotional support and the intensity of behaviors that these students are demonstrating. This new position is already having a positive impact on the Highcrest Social Workers' ability to meet student needs in a timely and professional way. The unpredictable nature of social and emotional crisis can make it very difficult to adequately meet acute needs while also maintaining consistency for those students who have already been identified for support. By increasing the quantity of social work staff, you have also raised the quality of service that the department is able to provide to students, parents, and staff at Highcrest. We appreciate the District's recognition of the impact of social and emotional factors in students' learning at the Middle School level, and we hope that we can continue to provide high quality social and emotional support to meet the students' needs in the future.

With respect and gratitude,
Hilary Harvey, Social Work Department Chair on behalf of the District 39 Social Work Department

Hilary Harvey, LCSW
School Social Worker
Social Work Department Chair
Wilmette Junior High School

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: Any plans for a study on iPad use at Highcrest and WJH is
Date: April 11, 2017 at 2:15:49 PM CDT
To: Susan Iskowich <susanay2626@yahoo.com>

Hello,

I did a bit of internal research before replying to your email. We have surveyed students about technology use. As you have guessed, headaches/physical concerns were not part of our surveys. The good news is that your timing is good. We are already working on plans for next school year, and part of our plan is to do a systemic assessment on technology integration. This includes another student survey. I have asked our tech director to include your suggestions in the survey.

Regarding your child and headaches; this is the first complaint we have had about headaches. I can't say whether there is a relationship between iPad use and headaches. There can be many factors that come into play, and you indicated eye-sight could be one. Also, as we know, puberty and physical development during adolescence could be a factor, as well as allergies, etc..etc.... However, a good thing to know is that at school students are not "on their iPads" all day. And in classes that use iPads more, we ask teachers to build in breaks to avoid extended screen time.

Additionally, we can personalize instruction for your daughter as needed. This personalization can include reduced screen time and more handwriting/note taking. Our technology program is designed to prepare children for New Trier, college and even the work place. While technology use is clearly something we see in everyone's future, it doesn't mean we can't "mix it up" and/or customize.

So, thank you for the suggestion, we will use your feedback. Finally, if you need personalization, please contact your child's teacher, and/or the AP at school. If you need help with the school, please let me know.

Thanks,

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

From: Susan Iskowich <susanay2626@yahoo.com>

Subject: Any plans for a study on iPad use at Highcrest and WJH is

Date: April 10, 2017 at 12:53:01 PM CDT

To: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>, "steenm@wilmette39.org" <steenm@wilmette39.org>, "kearneyt@wilmette39.org" <kearneyt@wilmette39.org>, "panzicaf@wilmette39.org" <panzicaf@wilmette39.org>, "schaffa@wilmette39.org" <schaffa@wilmette39.org>

Reply-To: Susan Iskowich <susanay2626@yahoo.com>

As a parent of a current middle school student and junior high student, while aware that the iPad use as part of the school instruction is still relatively new, I was wondering if there were any plans in the near future to conduct a survey of students to see whether the iPads are really improving their lives academically and otherwise. The reason I am curious is two fold.

1. My daughter has been complaining about frequent headaches for the past few years, beginning when iPads were introduced. Naturally my first reaction was that she has poor eyesight and needs glasses, which was the case, but even with glasses she still talks about headaches. I happened to mention this to another parent, and she also stated that her daughter knows lots of school kids who are talking about frequent headaches. And it doesn't seem to be entirely coincidental since there is a National Institute of Health and Welfare study from 2013 that shows that four or more hours of screen time per day for school children resulted in 10 % of these children complaining of DAILY headaches.

2. There are numerous studies (i.e. 2012 by Virginia Berninger, Professor of Educational Psychology of University of Washington, 2014 by Pam Mueller of Princeton University and Daniel Oppenheimer of UCLA) that suggest that the mere act of writing and taking notes by hand engages the brain and is thus a more effective study tool than computers or iPads. I am fortunate that my oldest daughter has Mr. Huynh for 7th grade algebra and he is aware of such studies and therefore does not rely on the iPad for instruction. I have also heard from parents of 9th graders and high schoolers about how they take more handwritten notes and do less on their iPads, so I also wonder how well we are preparing our children for high school if they are discouraged from doing things by hand.

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: Crossing Guard at Locust next year
Date: April 3, 2017 at 11:03:39 AM CDT
To: "E. Downs" <getdowns@gmail.com>

Good morning Emily,

Thank you for putting all of this in writing. I will share with, Civics and Safety, and the Village to see if they will consider a careful review. I am guessing the review would be in the fall, after change is implemented, when we have actual data to collect.

However, what you may not know is that we thought about this. As a result, we will be widening our before school WJHS availability for student drop off. For example, WJHS buses will be dropping students off 20 minutes before WJHS starts, which is 30 minutes before K-4 start time. We have parents who live across town by Central School and would need extra time to make 2 drop offs. Additionally, we have parents that want to continue an early drop off at WJHS, so they can get to work. We are exploring early AM supervision at WJHS too.

So, with all of this, our hope is to literally stretch out the WJHS drop off time, actually increasing flexibility for families. Our hope is to reduce early AM traffic at WJHS even more. So your points are very good ones... and we need to carefully monitor this.

Thanks,

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Apr 3, 2017, at 10:44 AM, E. Downs <getdowns@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ray,

I'm writing with a request for your help and thoughts on an issue that will arise due to the new time changes. I think the responsibility of this issue ultimately lies with the village, however, given that D39 students are affected, I think the district may be able to help.

I have children who attend Romona. We live west of Locust, and I love that they can walk or ride their bikes to and from school. However, I have always been concerned about them crossing Locust at the crosswalk between the Mikaelian Center and the junior high. Locust can be a busy street and the crosswalk location is not a natural stopping point for cars. Hence, drivers, who are increasingly distracted these days, have to keep a look out for these young pedestrians and bikers.

I, along with other parents, have repeatedly contacted the Wilmette Police Department about stationing a crossing guard at this location. They feel that this location does not warrant the resources to have a crossing guard. By the way, this location does have a crossing guard during the summer enrichment program and it was wonderful relief to know that my children would be safe as they crossed the street.

I have not pushed them on the issue because by the time the children are crossing the street to go to Romona, the busy junior high traffic has long since quieted down, and I feel my children can sufficiently navigate the lighter traffic.

However, now that the start and end times of Romona and the junior high are condensed, we have a real safety issue on our hands.

I have been in this district for over 11 years and have witnessed and been a part of the early morning drop of traffic at the junior high. Between 7:45 and 8:00, the traffic is congested and rushed, peaking around 7:50. On cold days and particularly bad snow days, the traffic line on Wilmette Avenue can stretch to the east, past Meadow Drive even, as cars head west and wait to turn right onto Locust. Drivers are in a hurry and focused on getting their children to school on time.

With the new start time of 8:25 am at WJHS, this heavy traffic congestion time will now be 8:10-8:25, peaking around 8:20. Currently, when my children walk or bike to school they leave about 25-30 minutes before school begins, which will have them arriving at the junior high around 8:20. Hence, young Romona students will be trying to cross Locust at it's peak traffic time of day. This presents a safety issue, even with the most well trained young street crossers.

When looking at this scenario, if my children leave any later to avoid the heavy traffic, they will be late for school. Also, if they leave any earlier, in most cases they will get to school too early.

I am worried about this. I know that when I drive my children to school, the condensed school traffic will cause us to take in more time to drive to school. I can deal with this. However, I am very, very concerned about my kids crossing the street at Locust. Again, I believe it is a real safety hazard.

Please let me know your thoughts. I think advocating for walking and biking to school is a good thing. I also know the district can and wants to advocate for the safety of its students during school hours.

I know this has been a long email, and I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider it. I certainly don't expect your response to be this long, but I would appreciate your thoughts on possible next steps.

Thanks so much,
Emily Downs

Greetings,

Thanks for this email, your support has been registered.

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 24, 2017, at 4:35 PM, bill milbratz <bill.milbratz@gmail.com> wrote:

Greetings Board Members,

Thanks for your hard work.

I'm writing to say I support the Mar 20 proposal "8:35 start time" for K-\$

Best regards

bill milbratz

Concerning bus route times... currently our longest Romona route is 28 minutes, under a 5-tier bus scenario the most a route is projected to be is 35 minutes. To shorten route times, we would need to add more buses at a related cost.

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 3:17 PM, Kimberly Newman <krodnewman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dr. Lechner-

Thank you for your prompt and thoughtful response. I would like to suggest that the Board send out an online survey to all Wilmette 39 parents of K-4, HMS and Jr High students. This survey would let people choose the options they most favor in the areas of:

- a) Start times at the expense of paying any additional costs
- b) How many people would join/drop out of using the bus system if they had to pay more for it or had to endure lengthened times
- c) How to best pay for the convenience of start times
 - I: District pays for all additional costs
 - II: District and Parents of bus-ers split all additional costs
 - III: Shared costs among all Wilmette39 families

Appendix C Option 1:

If the 25-35min route time is too long for a bus route, and it can't be cut down to 10-15min, can it be cut down to 15-25min? Just curious if that was a scenario that was considered based on adding additional buses.

These are just a few of my thoughts. I recognize you can't please everyone so I really think a survey would be best.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Newman

Good Morning,

It was good to see you at the Board meeting last night. I know from your public comments that you found answers to many of your questions. I will respond with the email that I was drafting for you yesterday, knowing that much of this information you now have.

First let me re-explain the situation with transportation to and from the Park District programs.

Kindergarten is handled differently than Grades 1-4, so let me start with D39 Kindergartners who attend Park District Kindergarten Enrichment - I think you will see that Romona parents actually save a little money. Presently, parents of Kindergartners at McKenzie, Harper, & Central pay a bus fee to the Park District of \$387 for the school year (5 days/week) to transport their kindergartners to the Park District Kindergarten Enrichment Program. This is in addition to the transportation costs they may be paying for us to transport their kids one way (to or from school, depending on whether they do morning or afternoon enrichment). I don't know if the Park District will increase bus fees next year or not. A Romona parent who buys one-way bus transportation (the current fee for fall 2017 is \$285) does not pay anything additional for their kindergartner to go to the Park District for enrichment - the D39 bus simply takes their child to the Park District instead of taking them home. So, Romona parents save a little with this arrangement.

Grades 1-4 are not the same. The Park District builds transportation costs into the cost of their [After School Recreation](#) program. However, they discount the tuition for Romona students because they are able to get dropped off by the D39 bus at the Rec Center, instead of going home. This year, D39's 1-way transportation is \$275 and the discount from the park district is \$261 - not a savings but almost a break even. The kids from the other three elementary schools pay a higher cost for their after school program at the Park District. For next year, we currently have our one-way bus fee at \$285, and we don't yet know the discount the Park District will provide for Romona families. Thank you for your comments last night that most Romona parents don't know about the Park District's fee reduction for Romona parents. We are planning an informational email to Romona parents to clarify all of this.

Regarding the bus routes, as it said in the Board report ([Revisions to Proposed School Start/End Times](#)), the current longest route is 28 minutes and with the new configuration we expect the longest to be 35 minutes, which we don't think is terribly much longer.

As far as what might be "lost" if the District covers the entire additional cost, you can see in the Board report what an equivalent amount "buys," and what spending that money would do to our reserves. It will be up to the Board to decide how to best fund any additional transportation costs.

Thank you again for taking time to share these thoughts and even provide an update at last night's BoE meeting.

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 18, 2017, at 10:49 AM, Julie Hanahan <jrhanahan@gmail.com> wrote:

Dr. Lechner and board members —

First, I'd like to thank you for listening to parents' reactions to the proposed changes to school hours and doing your best to address those concerns. I recognize that you are in a nearly impossible position trying to address the many, varied concerns and needs across the district.

I am a parent of two elementary kids and would have a hard time with a full hour change in the start time, and the effect on the kindergarten hours was particularly untenable. So I like the new proposed hours. I also appreciate and agree with the drive to start the junior high later based on research on adolescent sleep.

I say all of this to let you know I am not opposed to the revised proposal. However, I'd like you to consider a few factors in making your final decision about the start times and how to handle the increased costs if the revised proposal is accepted.

1. At the elementary level, the vast majority of bus riders are Romona kids, so a price increase will disproportionately affect families in one of the four attendance areas
2. Romona working families who use after-school rec will not have an option to give up bus service to get their children from school to the rec center. However, they are the only ASR families who will pay this fare hike, as ASR kids from the other three elementary schools ride park district buses — at no additional cost above ASR tuition. So Romona families both pay for buses and subsidize busing for kids from the other elementary schools through their ASR tuition. (Also note that the ASR bus from Romona has more than 60 kids on it, so this is not a small group.)
3. Reading between the lines and knowing that Romona currently has five bus routes, I gather the longer route times also will affect Romona and not the other elementary schools, though I do not know that to be a fact.
4. The option of the district's absorbing the price increase entirely is concerning because I wonder what we will give up if this happens.

Is it possible to increase to fees for all elementary or all D39 students to spread the increased cost among all families, not just those riding the bus? I heard several comments from parents who do not use the bus saying they want later start times and don't want the bus schedules to determine their child's school hours. I think it's fair that those individuals then share some of the burden of the solution that addresses their desire. This also would alleviate the disproportionate burden of added cost being borne by families in one part of the district.

I lay this out for your consideration in determining the best path forward for District 39. I do not envy your position, and I honestly do not know how I'd vote if I were on the board. I appreciate your efforts to serve both the best interests of education in the district and the needs expressed by the families affected.

I've seen talk among parents about a survey before the April 3 vote. I don't know if that would be helpful or harmful. A survey of bus families to see how the various new pricing structures would affect ridership might be worthwhile in determining which of the cost structures to adopt. We are a bus family, and the 100% fee-hike numbers are pretty staggering. On the other hand, I'd still pay it to avoid braving the pickup chaos every day. I'm just not sure how many families would make the same choice.

Thank you for your time,

Julie Hanahan
847-729-0827
jrhanahan@gmail.com

Greetings,

Let me explain the situation with transportation to and from the Park District programs.

Kindergarten is handled differently than Grades 1-4, so let me start with D39 Kindergartners who attend Park District Kindergarten Enrichment - I think you will see that Romona parents actually save a little money. Presently, parents of Kindergartners at McKenzie, Harper, & Central pay a bus fee to the Park District of \$387 for the school year (5 days/week) to transport their kindergartners to the Park District Kindergarten Enrichment Program. This is in addition to the transportation costs they may be paying for us to transport their kids one way (to or from school, depending on whether they do morning or afternoon enrichment). I don't know if the Park District will increase bus fees next year or not. A Romona parent who buys one-way bus transportation (the current fee for fall 2017 is \$285) does not pay anything additional for their kindergartner to go to the Park District for enrichment - the D39 bus simply takes their child to the Park District instead of taking them home. So, Romona parents save a little with this arrangement.

Grades 1-4 are not the same. The Park District builds transportation costs into the tuition for their [After School Recreation](#) program. However, they discount the tuition for Romona students because they are able to get dropped off by the D39 bus at the Rec Center, instead of going home. This year, D39's 1-way transportation is \$275 and the discount from the park district is \$261 - not a savings but almost a break even. For next year, we currently have our one-way bus fee at \$285, and we don't yet know the discount the Park District will provide for Romona families.

In answer to your question, the new proposal has 4 fee scenarios, ranging from the District absorbing all the increased costs to parents funding all the additional costs. However, in these scenarios, any portion of the costs that go to parents would be applied equally to all parents whose children ride the bus. The first scenario has no fee increase to parents. The 2nd scenario has all the additional bus expenses going to parents. If all of the expenses went to parents, the new one-way fee would be \$440. \$440 is the highest scenario, which is \$2.50/day for one way bus transportation. However, there are 2 middle of the road one way scenarios. These middle scenarios have proposed fees ranging from \$330-\$360.

Finally, your idea of spreading the costs among all families through general school fees is certainly something I can discuss as an option with our School Board.

Thank you for your support and ideas,

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 10:31 AM, Kimberly Newman <krodnewman@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Dr. Lechner-

I just wanted to email you to tell you that I really like the new proposed start/end times! I really feel like the board listened to parents' concerns and came back to the table with a practical, feasible option. Even the early release day, Friday, is better because I would think working parents would take advantage of the after-school care for one hour or would be able to work something out in their schedules easier. I really appreciate the board listening and responding so effectively!

Next year I will have a 4th grader, 2nd grader and a kindergartener at Romona school. I would have them take the bus but I feel like it doesn't make sense since most of my kids' after school activities start at 4pm. If they took the bus they wouldn't get home in time to drop off their stuff, have a snack, have 5 minutes to reset, and then travel to the next activity. I would let them walk home occasionally (especially next year) but since we live on Sandy Lane, the intersection of Hunter/Wilmette Ave has no crossing guard and there are so many accidents that I just don't think it's safe.

I recently found out that Romona kids take District 39 buses to after school rec, and pay for it, while Harper/Central/McKenzie schools take park district buses to after school rec and DON'T pay for it. This seems completely unfair! The Romona kids should be able to take a park district shuttle too- without paying for it, whether or not the park district only had 3 buses or not. I hope that with the new plan, costs will not increase for the Romona families who take the ACR buses because that would be unfair for them to shoulder alone part of the increased costs.

So knowing that the new plan will cost \$265k to implement (this is a shame but understandable), will the costs be spread evenly amongst the community? I hope that any increase can be added to our general school fees, so that EVERYONE who is benefiting from the new plan can share in the cost of it.

Thank you,
Kimberly Newman
2201 Sandy Lane
Wilmette
847-772-4026

Meghan,

Thank you for this feedback. As you likely observed, those parent forums were purposeful and impactful; the feedback we received gave the needed direction. Our next step will include looking at the 4 scenarios and determine the best way to pay for the proposal.

Thanks,

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 11:56 AM, Meghan Busse <m-busse@kellogg.northwestern.edu> wrote:

Dear Dr. Lechner and School Board Members -

I hope I am one in a chorus of parents thanking you for reconsidering the school schedule for District 39. I know that your original plan was motivated by cost-consciousness, but I am very grateful that you were willing to go back to the drawing board to create a revised plan.

I know there is a tradeoff, and that this revised school schedule will have higher associated costs. But from my perspective, the increased costs are worth having a schedule that comes closer to the ideal for children in individual schools, and is significantly more convenient for parents (like me) with children in multiple District 30 schools.

Regards,

Meghan Busse
(Central and Highcrest parent)

Meghan R. Busse

Kellogg School of Management
Northwestern University
Strategy, 6th floor
2001 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208

phone: (847) 467-3362
fax: (847) 467-1777

Thank you Gail!

I agree, our aim is to minimize any impact on fund balances, for the very reasons you indicated below. As a result, a fee discussion will be critical. I will share your sentiments with the Board of Education.

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 7:45 AM, Gail Thomason <gailthomason@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Dear Ray -

I read your Friday, March 17 email regarding the District's proposed changes to start times and responses to parents' concerns. I noted with particular interest the Appendix showing options for handling the increased transportation costs to K-4 students as a result of accommodating parents' desire for k-4 start time later than 8 am.

I would like to share my thoughts and feedback with you and the Board about increasing District costs for non-core purposes.

In 2009-2011 D39 cut \$2.5 million from the budget and an additional \$1.8 million in 2011-2012. Part of those 'cuts' for the District included raising user fees (paid by parents) by over \$300,000. This was identified as part of the compact between the 25 percent of voters with school-age children and the 75 percent without children who were asked to pay an additional \$58.80 per \$1,000 of property taxes paid to maintain our excellent schools. Voters overwhelmingly supported that request because they were convinced that D39 managed its pennies and provided great value.

Should the District move to absorb the increased cost, it appears to me that reserves will decrease by a full one percent within 3-4 years.

I believe in increasing the school day and teacher collaborative time and congratulate you on modifying the teacher contract to achieve that goal; I feel I could more whole-heartedly give my support if you are able to do so without a hit to the District's bottom line for non-core functions.

Thank you,
Gail Thomason

The subject line of your email still says "Vote NO.... " so I must admit to being a tad tenuous as I opened this.....Then I read your great big THANK YOU! Ha ha....you just made my day!

Indeed, those parent forums were purposeful and impactful; the feedback we received gave the needed direction.

THANK YOU for sharing and.....

Enjoy Spring Break!

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 9:40 AM, Tara VanderKamp <tvanderkamp@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning,

Three cheers for the Board and Ray! THANK YOU for going back to the drawing board on this and coming up with a revised plan that better suits the needs of all our schools! I am very pleased with the new plan, but more so, I feel very fortunate to live in a community where the Board took our feedback into consideration and were open to revising the proposed plan.

Many thanks again,
Tara VanderKamp

Good morning,

Indeed, the parent forums made were impactful, as the feedback we received gave the needed direction.

Enjoy Spring Break!

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 7:21 AM, Carolyn Cornwell <carolynhc@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning,

I received the latest update to the proposed school hours, and just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for listening to all of our concerns about the early start times, the busses, the early release for Kindergarten etc. This new proposal is so much better! Thank you for taking another look with our students and their family lives in mind. We all really appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Cornwell

Thank you Erika! Those parent forums made the difference, as the feedback we received gave the needed direction.

Enjoy Spring Break!

Thanks,

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 20, 2017, at 5:13 AM, erika milbratz <erika6000@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Board Members and Dr. Lechner,

Thank you for the Revised Start Time Proposal. Thank you for your partnership during this process. I am in support of the Revised Start Time Proposal.

Thank you.

Erika Milbratz

You are most welcome Rachel. Those parent forums made the difference! The feedback received in those meetings gave the needed direction.

Thank you for this follow-up and enjoy Spring Break!

Ra

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 19, 2017, at 9:45 PM, Rachel Smith <rachelasmith@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi-

I wanted to thank you for listening to feedback and working with the community to find a solution to better accommodate the students and stakeholders.

I expressed my concern regarding the early dismissal for K students and appreciate you making that change to avoid shorter hours.

Again, thank you for your partnership!

Rachel Smith Plawsky

The parent forums thankfully did exactly what we intended. We floated a workable proposal, then listened carefully to our parents and community. Those meetings gave us the necessary direction to inform our next proposal.

Thank you for this feedback. The next step would be for the Board of Education to consider scenarios, your suggestions below are noted!

Enjoy Spring Break!

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 19, 2017, at 9:53 AM, Laura Hemmer <lbb00@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Lechner and School Board Members:

We very much appreciate the effort you undertook to reconsider the school schedule issue and find a solution that now works for all age group children in D39. Thank you, very much, for your responsiveness to the valid concerns from parents regarding the potentially negative impact the initially proposed schedule could have on our elementary children (and cascading down to preschool children). The new proposal clearly now helps to meet the education and health needs of all D39 students, regardless of their age. Although we really appreciate the district being fiscally responsible, limiting expenditures at the cost of academic achievement is not acceptable. As a family who does not yet use buses, but who plans to use them for middle and junior high, we would be very comfortable incurring the full increased cost noted for round-trip transportation. To maintain limited-to-no budget impact, we encourage most consideration be given to budget scenarios 2-4 in the new proposal. However, we fully support this revised proposal in whatever financial scenario you decide is appropriate to handle the increased bus costs. This new proposal and the manner in which this issue has now been thoughtfully considered by you has re-affirmed our trust in D39.

Sincerely,
Laura Hemmer, MD
Micah Hemmer
402 Maple Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091
(children age 7 and 4 years old)

Mehgan,

Indeed, the parent forums were an important key in soliciting feedback, which clearly formed a direction for Proposal 2. We sincerely welcome all feedback. So, thank you again for sharing this email too!

Have a nice Spring Break.

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 19, 2017, at 10:25 AM, Meghan MacKinnon <meghanmackinnon@me.com> wrote:

Dr. Lecher, Ms. Schaff and the Entire District 39 Board of Education-
Upon receiving Dr. Lechner's email on Friday night, I immediately emailed him and Ms. Schaff thanking them for the revised plan for the school start and end times, but I wanted to take a moment and thank the entire board as well for listening to so many of the families' concerns about the proposed school start and end times and going back to the drawing board to create a plan that benefits all of the students in the district. The new plan is great.

I have heard from many people since Friday night who are so happy that the new plan allows for all of the kids in the district will have a reasonable start time next school year, that many of the bus issues were addressed, that the early release day was adjusted and that kindergarten will not have an early release day. Thank you very much for taking into consideration so many opinions on this matter and revising the plan to address these concerns.

We are very fortunate to live in a district that listens and cares what its constituents think and I applaud all of you for adjusting the plan as needed. I think this revised plan will benefit all of the students in the district now and into the future.

Thank you for your service and thank you for the revised plan-
Meghan MacKinnon

Thank you Traci..... the parent forums were very helpful in soliciting a direction that informed our decisions. So far the feedback on proposal 2 has been very positive.

Enjoy Spring Break!

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 18, 2017, at 10:48 AM, Traci Knudson <traci.knudson@nogginlabs.com> wrote:

Ray, Alice, and the Board,

I would like to send my thanks to Ray and his team for all the work on the revised Start Time Proposal. The plan that was sent out last night is a HOME RUN. You all listened to our concerns, and were able to come up with a revised plan that kept many great aspects (the WJHS later start time!, the elimination of the HMS bus wait time!, banding for k-4!) while adjusting the K-4 schedule to an 8:35 start time. I also applaud the move of the early release to Fridays, and eliminating it for K.

I truly feel like this process showcased our partnership with the School District and the community. Thank you for listening, thank you for adjusting, and thank you for the revised plan. I, as a mother to 4 kinds in your 3 school systems, applaud it for helping all D39 kids at every school level.

Many thanks and have a GREAT weekend! I hope the Board approves this plan straight away.

Traci and Brian Knudson

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Traci Knudson

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Thank you for this email. Parent input clearly helped guide the development of a second proposal; I am glad our work addressed your concerns.

Enjoy the first day of spring!

Ray

Raymond Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Wilmette Public Schools
847-512-6030

On Mar 17, 2017, at 9:31 PM, Jacki Krashin <jackikrashin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi,

As a follow up, I wanted to thank you all for listening to the parents concerns and coming up with this new plan. I support the new proposal!

Thank you,
Jacki Krashin

On Fri, Mar 17, 2017 at 1:04 PM, Jacki Krashin <jackikrashin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi,

I am a Romona parent of a current Kindergartner and of a 2 year old future Romona student. I attended the parent presentation last Thursday evening, and I appreciate all of the time and effort made to do the best for all students in the district and know that there are MANY moving parts that make this decision so difficult. That being said, I strongly oppose this new proposed schedule. The benefits for the older kids should not be at the cost of the elementary school students and especially the Kindergarteners.

The current plan for the kindergarten schedule is unacceptable. If this plan came in conjunction with a full day kindergarten option I think you would get everyone on board (I understand that is a whole other can of worms, but still VERY important). The current schedule with a 8-10:50 day OR an afternoon time starting in the AM over lunchtime is terrible and then add in a FULL hour early release is unacceptable. My kindergartener sleeps until 7:30 or 7:45 most mornings. Not every elementary school student is up and ready to go to school at 8 AM. I understand that the Kindergarten plan is being reviewed - but I ask that a vote for the new schedule does NOT take place until this is fixed - thank you for moving the vote to a later date. I ask that all the pieces be ironed out before the vote takes place. People will choose not move to Wilmette with this schedule in place.

It is unfortunate that bussing seems to be the driving factor for the elementary school start times. 8 AM is early. Also, a release of 2:40 is early - there are many part time working parents like myself that currently get off work at 3 to then pick up their children at school. A move up to 2:25 for a working parent to leave work is difficult in many work situations. In addition, a full hour between drop off for an elementary school student and a Highcrest student is problematic.

I am also concerned about the early release weekly, has a monthly option been looked at as an option?

Thank you for your continued hard work on this and for listening to parents ideas and trying to find solutions before voting on this big change.

Best,
Jacki and Dan Krashin
3019 Washington Ave
Wilmette, IL 60091