

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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TO: KITTERY SCHOOL DISTRICT FAMILIES
FROM: ERIC WADDELL 
DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2017
RE: UPDATE ON LATER SCHOOL START TIME INITIATIVE

For those who have been following the work of the District related to pushing back school start times, I wanted to offer this update for you. In December of 2016, the School Committee established a plan that would culminate in the Committee making a decision about later school start times beginning in September of the 2018-19 school year. The School Committee hosted two community forums last winter and spring on the topic, and they surveyed families to glean their input on the topic of later school start times.

At its December 5th meeting, the School Committee determined that more work needed to be done to consider the implications of later school start times in Kittery before they could make a decision. Therefore, no changes to school start times will be adopted for the 2018-19 school year.

The science behind later school start times for adolescents is indisputable. The logistics are another story. The School Committee wants to explore this initiative thoroughly. Therefore, they will establish an Ad Hoc Exploring Later School Start Times committee to dig deeper for input on how changing school start times will impact:

- Interscholastic Athletics
- Childcare (before and after school)
- Transportation with our Transportation Contractor (cost and feasibility)
- Sanford Reg. Technical Center
- Parent work schedules and commutes to work, recognizing that many of our parents live here but work an hour or more away
- Other factors that we haven't uncovered

The Ad Hoc committee will include School Committee members, school personnel, community members, parents, and students. The group will be charged with researching, seeking input from all stakeholders, hosting public discussions, and presenting their findings with a proposal to the School Committee for their consideration in December, 2018 (although the time frame for the Ad Hoc Committee's work has not been set). The earliest any changes to school start times would be implemented is September, 2019.

The Committee's first meeting is set for **Tuesday, January 23rd** at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at the Traip Academy Library. If you would like to be involved on the Ad Hoc Committee to explore later school start times, contact Donna Schoff via e-mail (dschoff@kitteryschools.com) or call the Superintendent's Office (207-475-1334). In the meantime, take a look at this website which advocates for later school start times: <http://www.startschoollater.net/>