

South Shore Regional School Board

Liverpool Family of Schools

Conversations about change in bell times to accommodate a one run transportation system

Meetings

May 8 - Principals of Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy, South Queens Middle School, Liverpool Regional High School

May 15 - Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy, Liverpool Regional High School staff

May 16 - South Queens Middle School staff

May 17 - Dr. J.C. Wickwire Academy, South Queens Middle School, Liverpool Regional High School SAC chairs and Principals.

Purpose

To fulfil a commitment made five years ago during a route review of the Liverpool family of schools. At that time, transportation services received a request from Dr. J. C. Wickwire's SAC to alter their bell times and move to a one run system for Liverpool family of schools. In 2013, in order to make this change, five additional buses were needed. A commitment was made to annually review the possibility and provide an update.

Summary of what was heard

Pros

- First student pickup times 1 hour later.
- Better for parents requiring childcare, older students leave and arrive at the same time.
- Early starts cause parents to provide childcare before school for P-5 students.
- Cost savings.
- Young students no longer waiting at home or at bus stop alone while older siblings go to school.
- Afterschool sports not affected.
- Aligns better with other board school start times.
- Aligns with research about older student start times.

Cons

- Transporting P-12 students together.
- Changing the culture from Jr/Sr students starting early and elementary students starting later, to the opposite.

Liverpool High Staff

- Stop, SQ, stop at LRHS, primary on bus waiting
- On bus – primary with grade 12 (exposing kids to)
- Will there be parking concerns, more drivers
- Drug focus group found drug use lots of issues on bus
- Concern young children with older ones
- Snow days younger home 1st could be an issue
- Driver cost – are we lowering driver wages/costs. Driver paid time

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Dr. J. C. Wickwire Academy Staff

- Later start times huge positive for older students
- P-12 what is discipline like
- Early dismissal – same as usual
- Is there room for all students on the buses

South Queens Middle School Staff

- In past HS & Middle were against it
- Let HS & Middle be in first
- Concern by some about older and younger students together
- High school doesn't miss class to go to sports
- Start of year, buses late because Wickwire is training new students to go to buses.
- Cost saving for parents using daycare

Liverpool Region High School SAC

- What would timeline look like
- Cost saving good
- P-12 positive but some parents may not like it
- Flip runs HS→ tradition?
- Sports still don't need to leave before classes finish
- If it can happen, sooner is better
- Better for child care
- Affects drivers, custodial, admin staff
- Parents of young most concern with P-12
- No wait in dark alone
- Discipline issues record
- No segregated recess or in public places, why segregate on busses

Themes

P – 12 students together on buses

Start time change

Other