

# Maine School Administrative District No. 11

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Angela Hardy  
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## LATE START COMMITTEE MEETING MERLE E. PEACOCK JR. BOARD ROOM

Tuesday, May 7, 2019  
4:00-5:00 PM

### MINUTES

Present: Hilary Belanger, GRMS Parent; Lily Belanger, GRMS Student; Becky Waugh, GRMS Teacher; Kady Gould, HT Principal; Kerri Malinowski, PRCS Parent; James Lothridge, Board Member; Angela Hardy, Director of Curriculum

- I. The meeting was called to order by Angela Hardy at 4:04 p.m.
- II. Reviewing Outcomes from March meeting  
Committee members reflected upon the April meeting experience where members of our broader learning community participated in a critical review of four prototypes for starting school later.

Hilary Belanger felt that the group did not have as much background in the purpose of a later start and might benefit from better understanding how other similar districts have made the shift. Ms. Belanger shared that Maranacook's schools start later, around 8:00 am, and their district composition mimics ours in many ways. They didn't reinvent the wheel but they are making the later start times work. The question remains as to when they made the shift. Committee members wondered if they have an after-school program like we do with the Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley (BGCKV)? If so, how did that partnership work through the shift in times?

Kerri asked that we revisit the video clip from Biddeford. The clip was sent out with the agenda for this meeting. Kady suggested that we could start with re-watching that clip at a future meeting and discussing it as the content may support our own work.

Kerri also was concerned that the BGCKV only just became partners in this process and they were likely surprised by the four prototypes presented during our last meeting. Angela assured committee members that she has reached out to BGCKV leadership and arranged meetings to follow-up on this meeting and invite them to the table as we make progress on this charge.

Kady explained that she learned a lot about programming, structure, funding of BGCKV and impact of these potential changes on their program through the last meeting's process. She recognizes the role that BGCKV plays in our learning system and considers them to be a vital resource for our learners. She explained that she fully understands the research and supports it, yet there were a few significant barriers of some of the prototypes that continue to hamper this work.

Becky shared that she thought that we might not have consensus yet for change in our broader community. The committee needs to come up with strategies for getting more information out about why we are pursuing this shift in scheduling.

Jim shared that he is worried about the timeline being too aggressive if we were to try to implement something for next school year. He may be in favor of a later start time but steps need to be defined moving forward and people will need to buy into this concept, not just be told about it.

Kerri suggested the development of FAQs. She supports Jim's comments and believe that there is a strategic next step, especially the need to integrate information about the health benefits. Hilary agreed that the integration of the medical community will be necessary in this work, especially with the universal focus on public health right now.

Overall, the committee would like to continue to pursue the charge and learn from the feedback and insights gained from the last meeting.

### III. Lessons Learned and Next Steps

The committee reviewed documents handed out by Angela (Late Start Committee Overview, draft, 2018-19, three revised prototypes, and updated start/end times of schools in Maine and their bus runs). Angela walked the committee through the documents and shared the work that has been done between meetings. Namely, using the feedback from March, three additional start times were crafted keeping intact the CATC bus schedule for our students and the need for a lunch period for CATC students prior to leaving our building. The options illustrated start times as close to 8:00 a.m. as possible.

Even though the research stated that an 8:30 a.m. start time is ideal, it is not yet feasible to start GAHS at 8:30 and maintain the CATC schedule. The documents also outlined the analysis of start and end times for other school communities that start close to 8:00 am or later. With that the bus schedules for each school were reviewed and the earliest and latest bus times were documented. In Biddeford, they made a commitment to not start bus pickups before 7:00 am and, therefore, their school start time is 8:35 a.m. Most communities where they've shifted their start times, still have at least one bus run that starts around 6:00 a.m.

Committee members discussed the documents and raised the following questions: If there are limited students who still need to ride an early morning bus (e.g. 6:05 a.m.) with a later start, can there be a creative approach to changing that?; Is it worth trying to start them at 8:00 a.m. if the medical recommendation is set at 8:30 a.m.?; What does the high school community think about the shifting schedule?

Angela will be following up with the Director of Transportation, Athletic Director, GAHS and GRMS Principals, and BGCKV leadership to share these revised prototypes and secure feedback prior to our next meeting. In doing so, the committee hopes that some of these questions might be resolved. It was clear that if we move forward with any plan, administrative leadership across the entire district will need to be in support.

### IV. Next Steps + Roles

- Angela will follow up with identified parties to share the documents and pursue the questions.
- The committee will watch the video clip from Biddeford at the start of the next meeting and discuss.
- Angela will invite BGCKV and a school nurse to our next meeting.

- The committee will meet again on Tuesday, May 28 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Central Office.

V. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Hardy