

**2019-2020 Proposed Transportation Schedule
FAQ Document
September 21, 2018**

Q - Was a survey conducted with the community?

A – There have been a variety of opportunities for the community to offer input into the proposal for a unified schedule at the middle school. In April 2018, the parents and community members were invited to participate in the Comprehensive Planning Committees. The Structures of Learning committee reviewed various schedule options and provided feedback. Parents, teachers, community members, administrators, board members and students comprised the committee that met several times. Additionally, parents and staff were invited to the July 2018 School Board meeting to attend a public presentation of the Proposed 2019-2020 Transportation Schedule. The parents and staff in the Twin Valley Community were given an additional opportunity to give open ended feedback and ask questions to be answered in this FAQ's document through an email blast and website post on September 11, 2018. The open ended questions were chosen instead of conducting a survey so that all types of questions and feedback could be offered.

Q - Was this approved at the last board meeting?

A - The board has offered preliminary support for a unified schedule at the middle school while asking for additional feedback on the proposed schedule to be used in the final determination.

Q - Is there a notification process to be part of the public comments portion of an upcoming board meeting?

A - The public comments portion of the School Board meeting is available every board meeting. Community members may offer comments during the public comment period by completing a green card and speaking directly to the board. The board meets every 2nd and 3rd Monday at 6:30 PM in the District Office.

Q - Will the proposed schedule mean that 5th-8th graders would be in the hallways in between classes at the same time?

A - The proposed schedule does not change the current hallway traffic and student interaction patterns. Each grade attends their core classes in their own hallway area. Currently, only during the related arts periods do students leave their own hallway area and that would not change under the new schedule.

Q - Would there be separate buses for middle school and high school students?

A - Yes, on the proposed 2019-2020 transportation schedule there will be separate bus runs for high school, middle school and elementary school students.

Q - Why is high school starting so early when there are studies indicating that high school aged kids do better in school with a start time after 8:30 am? Will the early start time for the high school students be addressed?

A - The high school start time is not appreciably different in the proposed schedule which is intended to unify the middle school schedule.

Q - Why can't 5th grade through 12th grade start at the same time?

A - There was a draft schedule that was considered throughout the process that included 5th-12th grade on the same bus run. The 2019-2020 proposed transportation schedule surfaced as the preferred schedule from the options that were reviewed.

Q - How much money would the school district be saving by switching the middle school on the same schedule excluding transportation?

A - There is no fixed cost savings to the district by switching the middle school to the same schedule. However, the proposed schedule allows the opportunity for school staff to be used in a more efficient manner to support its students.

Q - Is the time wrong for the elementary to go to school?

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A - On the proposed 2019-2020 schedule school begins at 9:00 am for the elementary students which is the same time as they begin currently.

Q - Would Elementary start earlier and what happens in 5th grade? Also....would my high school student have to be at school even earlier?

A - The proposed 2019-2020 schedule has the first bell at 9:00 am for the elementary, 8:00 am for the 5th-8th grade, and 7:40 am for the high school. The current schedule has the first bell at 9:00 am for the elementary, 8:50 am for 5/6, 7:45 am for 7-12.

Q - How is this change going to impact both bus companies?

A - Both bus companies have been part of the discussion since the beginning of the planning process.

Q - Have you done "mock" bus runs to see how effective they will be? With cutting busses it appears the runs will be longer as a bus will now have more of an area to cover.

A - Simulating bus runs is part of the planning process. There will be no busses cut on the proposed schedule.

Q - Can High School and Elementary schedules be switched? Concern was raised at the board meeting that some families rely on older kids caring for younger siblings after school but I don't think a decision should be based off of that. How many people would this really affect?

A - This was among many factors that were considered during the development of the proposed schedule. This proposed schedule is based on all of the feedback and intended to unify the middle school schedule.

Q - Will middle school students be riding the bus alone?

A - Yes, on the proposed 2019-2020 transportation schedule there are separate bus runs for high school, middle school and elementary school students.

Q - What was the primary factor that prompted this discussion?

A - Please refer to the document posted on the website listing the benefits of one schedule at the middle school for the primary factors in considering this change.

Q - What impact does the teacher's union have on the need to consolidate the schedule?

A - The teacher's union did not drive the proposal to create one schedule.

Q - What impact does the union have on your ability to ask teachers to come in early or stay later for professional development, meetings, collaboration and/or clubs?

A - The teachers' work day is 7.5 hours a day. The administration directs their assignments during that time.

Q - What impact does transportation have on the need to consolidate the schedule?

A - The cost of transporting the students to school was considered in each option reviewed. The proposed 2019-2020 has the least cost impact for transportation.

Q - Why are guidance counselors not available to students for the entire day right now?

A - Currently, the three middle school guidance counselors are split between the two student schedules. Therefore, all three are not available during the entire time students are in the building. With the two schedules, the school building is open from 7:25 AM-4:00 PM. The staff contract is for 7.5 hours a day.

Q - Why are aides not available to students for the entire day right now?

A - Currently, the majority of middle school aides are in the building only during the time their assigned grade level students are in school.

Q - What is the positive rationale for putting 10 year old students in clubs with 13/14 year old students? Does the district believe this is a good thing?

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A - Some of our student clubs (not all) are already for 5th-8th grade students yet have to meet separately as two groups. Under the new schedule these can be combined. The district encourages the 8th grade students to serve as peer mentors in the classroom and as Raider Pride leaders with students in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades. There are many positive opportunities for our middle school students to interact with each other.

Q - Are sports schedules truly being factored into this decision to change the academic schedule?

A - Sports schedules did not drive the decision to unify the middle school schedule.

Q - Are the meeting minutes for the committee working on this recommendation available on the website?

A - Minutes are only kept to reflect board action. The Comprehensive Planning Structures of Learning sub-committee was part of the deliberative process leading to the proposed schedule.

Q - Can you tell me what if any action/follow-up has happened since the July meeting? Will a new proposal be developed as was requested by the school board? Will the parents be receiving an email with questions to solicit feedback as was requested at the meeting?

A – Since the July board meeting it was decided to send out the proposed 2019-2020 to the parents and to ask for open ended feedback and questions.