Bell Time Update

During the last contract negotiations, Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and Seattle Education Association (SEA) agreed to add 20 minutes of core instructional time to the school day starting in the 2017-18 school year. This action supports improved student achievement by bringing SPS teacher-student instructional contact time into alignment with other districts in our region.

In addition, SPS and SEA agreed to add teacher collaboration time into the work day. Common collaboration time for educators to design lessons, review assessments and monitor students’ growth is one of the most effective ways to improve outcomes for all students.
According to letter from Seattle Public Schools on November 29, 2016:

Detailed Survey Results

Total Family Results – 11,108

Tier 1 Family Results (5683):

1. 85.5% end of the day (4859)
2. 8.2% split the time (466)
3. 5.3% beginning of the day (301)

Tier 2 and 3 Family Results (5209):

1. 47.8% beginning of the day (2489)
2. 28.4% split the time (1479)
3. 24% end of the day (1250)
In Summary, survey summary across families in all three tiers:

1. 6,165 end of the day
2. 2,801 beginning of the day
3. 1,945 split the time

• The most results came from Tier 1 families that wanted time added at the end of the day

Proposed Solution - Move to a 2-tier system:

• Times not specified, but somewhere in the line of 8:20 and 8:50
• Budget increase of between $3 - $3.8 million dollars due to transportation costs

Next Steps

“SeattlePTSAadvocacy” google group coordinating speakers for the meeting
Next School Board meeting is on January 4, 2017 4:15 to 8:00 at John Stanford Center, 2445 - 3rd Avenue South with voting on 1/18. (Same time and location)

Action You Can Take

You can find more information regarding 2017-18 budget development on our Budget Office webpage. Decisions regarding the number of start times (three versus two) and implementation of the associated transportation standards will be influenced by the School Board’s budgeting process.
The 2017-18 bell schedules will be finalized and communicated in January. To provide additional feedback to staff and the Seattle School Board please email arrivaltimes@seattleschools.org.

Material in this email comes from Seattle Public Schools on November 29, 2016 and the SeattlePTSAAdvocacy google group.