

SLEEP in Fairfax Candidate Questionnaire

(Please mark an X in the appropriate space and fill in as necessary)

- 1) Are you in favor of later start times for high school students?
 Yes
 No
- 2) Are you in favor of later start times for middle school students?
 Yes
 No
- 3) I believe later secondary school start times would benefit adolescent:
 Health (physical well-being)
 Safety (injury and drowsy driving reduction)
 Emotional/mental health
 Academic achievement
 All of the above
- 4) Is achieving later high school start times one of your top 3 goals in the next four years?
 Yes
 No
- 5) Would you vote in favor of a new FCPS policy to require that high schools start after 8:00 a.m. in the morning?
 Yes
 No
- 6) Would you be willing to propose such a policy for a vote?
 Yes
 No
- 7) The combined cost of instituting later start times with ideal transportation standards is unclear. MPS, a consultant hired by the School Board, estimated that achieving later start times could be accomplished for \$9.2 million a year or less (but did not include the cost to meet higher standards). FCPS staff has estimated bringing the current system up to higher standards—such as no rides over an hour, more on-time deliveries, fewer crowded buses and no pickups before 6:15 am—may cost as much as \$20 million, without later start times.
With that in mind, would you be willing to invest at least \$10 million (which is less than 0.5 percent of a \$2.2 billion budget¹) for transportation changes to make a new bell schedule possible?
 Yes
 No
- 8) Which non-transportation alternatives would you support as temporary measures while permanent later start time solutions are being developed? (*check all you support*)
 An opt-out of first period for students presenting a plan for earning enough credits for graduation, with no transportation provided?
 Pilot test an alternative schedule to allow students to opt into a later schedule replacing first period with a late class, an “eighth-period,” with no transportation provided.
 A new policy allowing high school students to take online courses in place of one or more first-period classes?
If so, would you allocate funding to increase the online course offerings?
 Yes
 No

 Other alternatives? (Slide the entire schedule _____)

¹ The 2007-2008 budget includes \$109 million for transportation.

- 9) The length of the elementary day may need to be increased because of recent changes in state standards. Also, consultants report that transportation costs could be reduced if elementary and secondary schools had a uniform school day (same amount of time in school). Would you support creating a uniform school day if this would help achieve later high school start times?

Yes

No

Elaborate on your answer if you wish-- I absolutely support investigating the benefit and the cost of doing this. I support minor changes to the elementary school day to provide more flexibility in the transportation schedule. However, if the cost is excessive, it would most likely result in the loss of support for the overall bell schedule if it is a key element to the new bell schedule.

- 10) FCPS should aim for later high school start times in what school year?

2008-2009

2009-2010

2010-2011

Please respond with more detail below:

(The electronic form will allow you to write as much as you want.)

- 11) What actions have you taken to promote later high school start times? 1) Supported the use of consultants to review the transportation program and the bells schedule. 2) Developed multiple decision processes to attempt to guide the School Board through the decisions concerning modifying the bells schedule and to develop a plan to work with the community to develop an acceptable bell schedule that includes later HS start times. 3) Attended the SLEEP community forum 4) Supported and participated in the "Linkage Subcommittee's" development of a community task force to determine the parameters that would be acceptable across the community. 4) Supported a budget (the Kory-Hunt) amendment to add funding to the development of a bell schedule that included later start times and the analysis required to achieve one acceptable to the community. 5) Supported the use of consultants to develop multiple bell schedule scenarios using computer technology to support the community development of parameters. 6) Provided data regarding the current bell schedule transportation routes. 7) Brought to light the lack of technology used in developing bus routes. 8) Coordinated a GMU operations research graduate class taken on a portion of the FCPS transportation planning process as their group project.
- 12) If elected, what specifically would you do to advance this issue? 1) Continue to press the staff to re-engineer the transportation system and to ensure that later start times is a significant part of that process. 2) Continue to support and argue for the use of technology in the development of bell schedule scenarios and the personnel that can provide the use of that technology. 3) Work with the community stakeholders to find solutions to potential barriers or concerns. 4) Continue to support the inclusion of community input throughout the parameter development process, the bell schedule scenarion development process and the final bell schedule development process. 5) Continue to support funding the effort, the re-engineering and reasonable additional cost associated with implementing a later HS / MS start time.
- 13) What do you perceive to be the greatest obstacle in establishing later start times and how do you propose overcoming it? 1) Fear of change. (address the issues as they are raised to eliviate the fear) 2) Resistance to change. (accept that this may be a slow process, but to persist) 3) Potential impacts on after-school extracurricular activities. (utilize the prameter discussions and the potential bell schedule scenarios to determine the impacts on after-school activites and find acceptable solutions for the majority of the stakeholders)
- 14) What bell schedule model do you believe has the most potential for providing reasonable start times for all FCPS students K-12 at a reasonable cost? (For example, start elementary schools

at what time(s); middle school at what time or times; high school at what time(s).) Please keep in mind that most later start time advocates, including SLEEP, feel strongly about NOT having elementary school students at bus stops in the dark. I would like to see a mix of predominantly ES and some MS in the first tier, HS in the second tier, ES and MS in the third tier. The third tier MS would be those in the more challenging demographic areas. ES schools should start so that pick-up times are after civil twilight. The goal would be to have all HS and MS start after 8am.

- 15) When and how should the community be involved in the development and implementation of new bell schedules? the community should be involved throughout the process. A task force of stakeholders should guide the process through the parameter development, the scenario analysis and the bell schedule development. The greater community should be involved in the final determinations associated with implementing a later start time (e.g. townhall meetings and public hearings).
- 16) If the proposal presented next spring by FCPS is not acceptable to the community, what would you propose as next steps? That would depend on how the bell schedule presented to the community was developed and the reasons for which the community did not accept it. If there is an common sense modification to the bell schedule that can alleviate the communities concern, it should be included in the bell schedule scenario and a new one developed. If a number of significant issues are brought forward, I would consider having the process go back to the task force parameter development and attempt a new iteration. If the community did not accept the concept due to misunderstanding of the impacts, a communication plan should be developed. If the vast majority of the community absolutely refused to accept the concept due to valid issues, then the re-engineering would be based on the current bell schedule.
- 17a) *If you are an incumbent*, use this area to describe your votes and other actions on this issue in the past four years. 1) Voted to fund two consultant reviews and analysis associated with changing the HS start times. 2) Seconded the Kory-Hunt amendment to the 2008 budget to fund development of a later start time bells schedule. 3) Argued for the use of consultants to develop multiple start time scenarios as a part of the parameter development process. 4) Argue for the staff supporting but not leading the bell schedule development. 5) Suggested and supported raising the bus driver pay that has alleviated the bus driver shortage. 6) Acquired data to support the SLEEP analysis.
- 17b) *If you are not an incumbent*, describe how you agree or disagree with the current School Board on their handling of this issue.
- 18) What else would you like to tell us about your position or thoughts on the issue of later high school start times or any of the questions above? Regarding number 4 -- While not in my top 3, it is in my top 5. Regarding number 5&6 -- This is dependent on the impacts of the later HS start times. If it can be accomplished without endangering the elementary students or causing a significant degradation in providing academic and extracurricular services, I would absolutely support it and propose it.