April 12, 2014

Dear Community Members,

There is consistent research that suggests starting high schools later in the day has many benefits academically, physically, socially, and emotionally for students. To this end, Administration has been charged with the task of researching and reporting to the Ashland School Committee findings relative to how the change in start times would impact students, parents, school finances, and the community as a whole.

Recognizing that a change in school start time would result in potential ramifications for students, parents, transportation, activities, athletics, and the like, it will be imperative to perform due diligence in our research. Community forums, parent and student surveys, discussions with local officials, and other activities will take place to ensure the process is thorough.

For those interested, I would anticipate this committee being together for at least one year and possibly longer. Meetings would be monthly at the outset and then more regular as our research comes together. To this end, I will be pulling together constituents from each school level. The make up of the 16-member School Start Time Committee will be as follows.

1 Parent Site Council Member Each From Warren, Mindess, AMS, and AHS – Each Site Council should vote on their respective member
1 Teacher Representative from Warren, Mindess, AMS, and AHS
1 School Committee Member
1 Administrator from Warren, Mindess, AMS, and AHS
1 Administrator from Central Office
1 AHS Athletic Director
1 AHS Student as elected by AHS Student Government

I want to be clear, the Ashland School Committee is not changing start times for the foreseeable future. It is the intent of the Committee to conduct appropriate research to determine if adjusting start times is what is best for the Ashland community and its students.

Should there be questions about the process, do not hesitate to contact me. As we move along, we will provide a website with research, articles, and regular updates as to the process. My contact information is jadams@ashland.k12.ma.us.

Be well,

Jim Adams, Principal
Ashland High School