

# WCSU School Start Time and Busing Proposals

12/9/2008

Rationale: A subcommittee charged by the full WCSU board comprised of 2 board members, 2 administrators, a community member and a Central Office administrative assistant met several times to discuss options for changing the WCSU transportation system.

The Committee worked to achieve several goals: To create transportation options that improve student learning; to support a greener and cleaner environment, and to ensure for the safe and timely arrival of students each day. We also considered factors such as cost, student safety, student travel time, and customer service in general.

## OPTION A

### BASICS—

- School start times would be “flipped,” with the elementary schools starting at 7:50 and U-32 starting at 8:25.
- Elementary and MS/HS students would take the bus together in the morning.
- No increase in the number of cluster stops, all current stops would continue.
- Some U32 students will utilize “satellite stops,” where they leave U32 on one bus and transfer to another bus. Satellite stops will be at some elementary schools.

### MORNING SERVICE—

All bus routes would commence at 7:00 AM or later each morning. Bus routes would take no longer than 40 minutes to arrive at the elementary schools. Buses would then board any high school students who were dropped off at the elementary schools, and proceed to U-32. East Montpelier and Berlin students would arrive at 8:00-8:10 AM. Calais, Worcester and Rumney Students would arrive at approximately 8:20 AM.

### AFTERNOON SERVICE—

Elementary buses would leave the elementary schools at 2:25 PM. Elementary afternoon routes would not exceed one hour. U-32 dismissal will be at 3:00 PM. U-32 students will either be delivered directly to their homes or they will meet a satellite bus, usually at their home town elementary school, transfer buses and get delivered home.

## OPTION B

### BASICS—

- School start times would be “flipped,” with the elementary schools starting at 7:50 and U-32 starting at 8:25.
- Elementary and MS/HS students would take the bus together in the morning.
- Each town would establish 20-30 cluster stops. Cluster stops would be set in locations so that the majority of students would have a reasonable walk to their stop.
- Travel time to the elementary schools would be less than 30 minutes.

### MORNING SERVICE—

All bus routes would commence at 7:15 a.m. or later each morning. Bus routes would take no longer than 30 minutes to arrive at the elementary schools. Buses would then board any high school students who were dropped off at the elementary schools, and proceed to U-32. All elementary buses would arrive at U-32 between 8:05 and 8:15 a.m.

#### AFTERNOON SERVICE—

Afternoon service would require fewer buses. Afternoon service will be much quicker, because there are fewer stops to make. Routes will be designed to move the buses quickly through the cluster stops. Worcester will only need one U32 bus and one elementary bus. Rumney would need 2 elementary buses and 2 u32 buses. It's hard to calculate the exact number of afternoon buses at this point.

**Both plans have advantages, listed below:**

#### **ADVANTAGES OF PLAN A**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** – The current level of service would remain the same for the elementary students. The level of customer service would improve for high school students as elementary buses pick students up on roads that high school buses do not.

**LOWER COSTS** – Fewer miles mean somewhat lower costs.

**LIMITS RIDE TIME** – Shorter Ride Time Elementary students would have shorter rides.

**ALLOWS FOR REASONABLE START TIME AT U-32** – Allows students to arrive at U-32 and still access the cafeteria for breakfast.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF PLAN B**

**Financial Savings** – by not increasing the number of buses and reducing the number of miles traveled, this option would produce significant savings for the district.

**EQUITY** – Cluster stops will be generated based on population, safety and accessibility. This would be equitable across the district.

**COMMUNITY BUILDING** – Parents will need to work together to meet the needs of the students at each cluster stop.

**LIMITS RIDE TIME** – Proposal A would have high school students on the bus for over an hour. Plan B would have kids riding for less than an hour. The current U-32 policy calls for students not riding the bus for more than 2 hours a day.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** – Cluster stops could be organized to meet the needs of special education students.

**ALLOWS FOR REASONABLE START TIME AT U-32** – Allows students to arrive at U-32 and still access the cafeteria for breakfast.