

# We Are Sweet Home

## Building Use Committee

1. Formed in agreement with the Board of Education that a committee would be formed to examine enrollment trends, spacing issues, and transportation to plan for the future of our buildings and the way our District operates.
2. The committee was formed in a way to discuss ideas to improve the overall Sweet Home experience for our students, in and out of the classroom.
3. The Committee formed this year as a body that can occasionally make recommendations to the Board of Education about the future direction of our facilities and use of transportation.



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## Purpose/Goals of this Committee

1. To discuss enrollment and enrollment trends.
2. To discuss transportation concerns related to the driver shortage.
3. To discuss spacing concerns at the elementary level, particularly Maplemere and Glendale.
4. To make short-term recommendations to the Board of Education that ease spacing concerns at the elementary level in a way that is least disruptive to the educational progress of our students.
5. To make recommendations to the Board of Education to ease transportation concerns, particularly the impact a driver shortage has on programming.
6. To develop long-term plans that address all of the issues facing the district and discuss potential scope of the next capital improvement project.



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## Parameters for the BUC

1. Every recommendation made will be done through the lens of DEI.
2. Every decision must be made in the best interest of our students. Recommendations to the Board of Education must have a positive impact on our students, while at the same time be least disruptive to their educational progress. We must find balance.
3. Recommendations made to the Board of Education will be based on data and research and not opinion of the committee or a committee member. It is possible that recommendations may need to be vetted through other stakeholder groups.
4. Our recommendations to the Board of Education are only recommendations.
5. All members of this committee are vested in improving the student experience at Sweet Home. All conversations and ideas will be treated with the utmost respect and dignity.



# We Are Sweet Home

## Building Use Committee

### Members Include:

Amy Battaglia, Mike Ginestre, Don Feldmann, Toyia Wilson, Bob Polino, Jim Ryan, Karen DeLaPlante, Scott Kennedy, Steve Rozler, Katie Barillari, Paul Szymendera, Bill Vaughn (elementary parent).

- Whole group has met five times since November, with the last meeting being on Feb. 2.
- Started with the overall situation with transportation and space. The conversation centered on transportation in meetings 2-5 because of all the concerns we have, the committee agreed that this rises to the top.
- The committee also permitted a smaller group to work on the specifics of the idea. The smaller group presented its findings to the larger committee.



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## Current Situation in Transportation

2018-2019 School Year

105 Drivers

2022-2023 School Year

53 Drivers

### Daily Run During Instructional Day

- Every available driver is working to transport students to and from school for their mandated instructional day. District Office often covers phones at transportation to have at least one staff member on hand in the office during school runs.

### Contracted Runs

Over 40

- Costs have doubled this year to nearly \$3 million, up from \$1.5 million last year
- Private/Parochial Schools
- McKinney-Vento
- Special Education

### Door-to-Door Pick Up at Elementary

### No Walking Radius to School

### Severely Hampering After-School Activities

- Supplementing parent drivers with school bus drivers. Equity Issue.

### Unemployment is Low and New Drivers are Not Applying



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## Transportation Ideas Discussed by BUC

1. Transportation and the Impact of the Following Procedural Changes
  - a. Walking Radius from Elementary Buildings
  - b. Common Pickup Area for Elementary Students
    - i. Safety First
    - ii. Consider Appropriate Age Levels
    - iii. Sibling Question
  - c. Start and Stop Times



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## Transportation Discussion Scott Kennedy

### What Impact Will These Three Ideas Have on Our Driver Shortage?

1. Walking Radius from School at Elementary Level
2. Common Pickup and Dropoff at Elementary Level
3. Staggered Start and Stop Times at Elementary Level

We felt option #3 to get students back to the overall Sweet Home experience.



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## Building Use Committee Recommendation

	Drop Off AM	Instructional Start	Bus Arrival PM	Instructional End	Bus Departure PM
HS	7:15	7:25	1:45	1:54	2:00
Glendale/Heritage	8:10	8:30	2:20	2:15	2:30
Maplemere/WR	8:40	9:00	2:50	2:45	3:00
MS	9:00	9:15	3:45	3:45	3:55

**Current Times:**

HS Dropoff 7:20, Ins. Start 7:30, Ins. End, 2:06, Bus Depart 2:12

ELM Dropoff 8:30, Ins. Start 8:50, Ins. End, 2:45, Bus Depart 2:50

MS Dropoff 9:00, Ins. Start, 9:15, Bus Arrival 3:45, Bus Depart 3:55





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## Current Elementary Runs Breakdown

SCHOOL	# STUDENTS	# OF BUSES
GL	461	11
HH	407	9
MM	505	11
WR	400	9

= 40 Elem. Runs

**\*Everyday, there are 40 elementary buses on the road at the same time, with 53 drivers on the roster with contracted runs happening at the same time. All available drivers are driving.**



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## Proposed Staggered Elem. Schedule

### Current Breakdown

SCHOOL	# STUDENTS	# OF BUSES
GL	461	11
HH	407	9
MM	505	11
WR	400	9

40 Runs  
 Dropoff at elem. schools, 8:30  
 Depart elem. schools, 2:50

### Proposed New Breakdown

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Drop Off</u>	<u>Depart School</u>	<u># of Buses</u>
Glendale/ Heritage	8:10 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	25
Maplemere/ WR	8:40 a.m.	3 p.m.	25

* estimated additional buses for each group: 4-5			
* estimated savings of "drivers" 5-6 per school per day			
* benefit: fewer drivers needed			
* benefit: bring back contracted runs			



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## Proposed Staggered Schedule

### Proposed New Breakdown

<u>Schools</u>	<u>Drop Off</u>	<u>Depart School</u>	<u># of Buses</u>
Glendale/ Heritage	8:10 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	25
Maplemere/ WR	8:40 a.m.	3 p.m.	25

### Benefits to Ease Driver Shortage

- Currently have 40 buses on road for elementary school pickup and drop off plus other buses for mandated out of district runs.
- Staggered times theoretically reduce this by half. However, we would likely use 25 buses for the staggered time to reduce crowding and reduce the length of a bus run.
- The drivers that are free can be used for extra runs after school.
- Working with SHSEA to explore other ways to bring back contracted and extracurricular runs.



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## Proposed Next Steps

1. Communicate recommended new start and stop times to families via traditional and social media means. Ask for feedback.
2. Ask families for feedback between now and Next BOE Study Session.
3. District Office and Transportation Officials to attend PTO/PTA Meetings over the Next Month.
4. Comments to be shared with the BOE at March Study Session, March 14.
5. We are asking the Board to vote on the recommendation on March 21.



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Thank you to the BUC, our families, and to the BOE for their time tonight.

Questions?



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