



PREPARING EVERY CHILD TODAY FOR TOMORROW

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

February 19, 2018

Dear Students, Parents, Employees and Community Members:

Over the course of the last few years, you have shared many concerns regarding our student transportation. These concerns have ranged from issues of late buses that create a loss of instructional time, the early pick up and late drop off for students, especially middle and high, the long wait and route times for students due to the large geographical area of the county, and safety issues related to early arrivals and late departures at our schools. Taking all of this into consideration along with our current start and end times, I realized we must address your concerns, as well as mine, moving forward. Therefore, I asked Mr. Cliff Warren, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Operations, to head up a working team to study these concerns and devise a recommendation for my consideration.

The working team consisted of a wide representation of internal and external stakeholders who met several times throughout the year to talk to surrounding districts faced with the same challenges, research the topic, and run route simulations for our district to develop two options that will address the concerns.

Based on their research, the working team has recommended that the district implement a two-tier system. In order to accomplish this task, the district must have a 60-minute difference in arrival times between the early childhood and elementary students and the middle and high school students. This will afford drivers the opportunity to drop off the early childhood and elementary students and then run their middle and high school routes. The same will happen at the end of the day with early childhood and elementary students being dismissed at least 60 minutes before the middle and high school students.

I know these proposed changes in our start and end times will require some adjustments for all, therefore, your input is important to ensure a smooth transition. Please visit the school district website to view the two options, read related articles, and look over the Frequently Asked Questions. Afterwards, the district would like you to complete our online survey to provide input on the proposed options. Additionally, the district will be hosting Town Hall meetings in each attendance area to discuss this topic and other district priorities as follows:

February 16, 2018

Page 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, February 27 th	Forest Hills Elementary	Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 8 th	Bells Elementary	Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 12 th	Cottageville Elementary	Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 19 th	Hendersonville Elementary	Beginning at 6:00 p.m.

I appreciate your understanding and support as we continue to advance the district and improve learning outcomes for all students.

Thank you for all you do to help as we Prepare Every Child Today for Tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Franklin L. Foster, EdD
Superintendent

FLF:cs

Enclosure