

June 21, 2021

Dear Superintendent Miner, Dr. Reyes, President Jernigan, and Shoreline school board directors,

We were disappointed to see the recent announcement that the high school bell times for this fall will remain at 7:50 a.m. (as they were pre-pandemic) with incremental adjustments for elementary and middle schools.

We are unclear as to why the district administration and school board have remained silent on a collaborative opportunity with the Shoreline community to explore later start times for high school – when the benefits are supported by science and when we know that good physical and emotional health of our students are the foundation for positive academic outcomes.

As previously mentioned in our May 17 public comment to the Board, we are aware that a proposed change in start times will present issues and questions across our community, particularly with childcare and transportation. However, other districts have identified solutions for their communities through designated task forces – and we believe Shoreline can, too. There is no better time than the present to re-examine systemic practices as we emerge from the pandemic by engaging in conversations with stakeholders now. We are all working towards the same goals of promoting student well-being, highlighting safety and supporting equitable educational opportunities.

We look forward to your reply on this matter.

Respectfully,

The Shorewood High School PTSA Executive Board
Shannon McMaster, President
Johanna Polit, Vice President
Linda Tsai, Secretary
Mea Fischelis, Treasurer
Debbie Olhoeft and Marion Mohrlök, Members-At-Large

