



Special Ad Hoc Committee – Start & End Times

Horseheads CSD

April 27, 2026



Public Update

Special Ad Hoc Committee's Review of School Start and End Times

The Horseheads Central School District Special Ad Hoc Committee convened on April 27, 2026, to continue its review of the district's current school start and end times. This meeting represented a critical phase in the process, focusing on deepening analysis of stakeholder feedback across multiple engagement methods and beginning to translate that data into potential future considerations. Building on prior meetings, the session emphasized structured review of stakeholder input, identification of themes, and initial exploration of potential actions aligned to the committee's guiding framework.

The committee's work continues to be guided by a clear "North Star" of ensuring the best possible educational experiences for students and continues to examine current conditions and potential future considerations through three key lenses:

- **Feasibility** – operational, transportation, contractual, and fiscal realities
- **Practicality** – implementation considerations and educational impact
- **Desirability** – community perspectives and stakeholder experiences

The central focus of the meeting involved a structured review of stakeholder feedback collected through multiple engagement strategies, including:

- Elevating Student Voices Sessions – Intermediate School/Middle School & High School
- External Stakeholder Focus Group
- Internal Stakeholder Surveys
- External Stakeholder Surveys

Committee members engaged in a facilitated protocol to identify key insights, recurring questions, and areas of alignment across these data sources. Committee discussion across all data sources surfaced several cross-cutting insights:

- **Variability of experience** – impacts differ across student groups, grade levels, and family contexts
- **Interconnected factors** – scheduling decisions influence transportation, programming, staffing, and daily routines
- **Student well-being and engagement** – recurring considerations related to sleep, fatigue, readiness to learn, and involvement in activities
- **Operational and logistical complexity** – challenges related to coordination, timing, and system constraints
- **Communication and understanding** – importance of clarity, transparency, and shared understanding throughout the process

These themes reinforced the system's complexity and the importance of balancing multiple factors in future considerations.

The committee will reconvene on May 14 to continue discussing potential future actions. The overall process will enter the final stages by working with the committee to provide feedback on a draft report on May 28 and then present a final report to the Board of Education on June 3.

The committee's work continues to support a disciplined, transparent process that informs thoughtful decision-making by district leadership and the Board of Education.