



Special Ad Hoc Committee – Start & End Times

Horseheads CSD

March 30, 2026



Public Update

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

The Horseheads Central School District Special Ad Hoc Committee held its fourth meeting on March 30, continuing its structured review of the district's current school start and end times with facilitation support from Leadership Solutions Advisers. This meeting marked a transition from establishing current conditions to reviewing stakeholder feedback and preparing for additional data collection.

The committee's work remains focused on identifying 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

During the meeting, members reviewed feedback from internal and external ThoughtExchange engagements. The feedback reflects a range of stakeholder perspectives, with common topics including student well-being, family schedules, extracurricular participation, transportation, and communication processes.

Committee members engaged in discussion of these themes to help identify key areas for further inquiry. This work is intended to support the development of districtwide surveys, focus groups, and student voice engagement opportunities that will gather additional input from students, staff, families, and community members.

Committee members also began developing a survey item map and question bank to guide the next phase of engagement. This work focuses on identifying what the district needs to learn in order to design clear, balanced surveys aligned to decision-making needs.

Upcoming engagement opportunities include:

- Districtwide surveys (internal and external stakeholders)
- Focus groups and student voice engagement sessions
- Continued analysis of ThoughtExchange feedback

The committee will reconvene to review additional data and continue discussion of potential future actions. The overall process will continue through the spring, with a draft report anticipated for committee review in late May and a final report to the Board of Education in early June.

The committee's work continues to emphasize a student-centered approach, supported by careful analysis, transparent communication, and inclusive community engagement.