

New Canaan Public Schools
School Start Times Implementation Committee
October 14, 2021, Wagner Room
Minutes

Attendance:

Ms. Dawn Bridges, Mr. Adam Case, Ms. Laura Catherwood, Ms. Emily Cerone, Dr. Jill Correnty, Ms. Susan Cushman, Ms. Elizabeth DeMuth, Ms. Lauren Erickson, Ms. Maura Fruin, Ms. Trish Gracia, Mr. Dave Gusitsch, Ms. Jaclyn Hoey Zhou, Mr. Matthew Kascak, Dr. Bryan Luizzi, Ms. Emily Raderman, Mr. Karlie Reitano, Ms. Katrina Parkhill, Ms. Bill Tesbir and Mr. James Yao

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 A.M.

II. Right At School

Dr. Luizzi introduced Mr. Adam Case and Ms. Dawn Bridges from Right At School, a national PreK-8 before and after school enrichment program. Mr. Case and Ms. Bridges have decades of experience working as teachers and administrators in the public school system. Right At School has been endorsed by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) as the best company for before and after school programming.

The mission of Right At School provides safe, engaging, and meaningful programs to enrich students and instill a love of learning. Right At School has partnered with districts for ten years to support the unique needs of each community. Their programming is infused with social-emotional learning and educating the whole child. Students are offered “disguised learning” which are fun hands-on opportunities to apply the lesson they have learned in school, ensuring out of school time is used purposefully and impactfully.

Right At School fully operates the program, which includes hiring and training staff, obtaining licensure, and supplies at no cost to the district. They often hire existing district employees, as well as semi-retired educators and student educators. Discussion ensued regarding staffing and Right At School’s national successes at staffing and retention. The student to instructor ratio is 10:1, oftentimes less.

Programming is customizable and focused on becoming a part of the ecosystem of the district’s community. They will collaborate with teachers, district leadership as well as other town leaders to ensure student success as well as partner with other clubs and activities that students may be involved in.

Families can enroll their students on a monthly basis for one to five days per week, with flexible offerings for drop-in days. There are multi-child, military, and employee discounts. The after-school programming would run from 2:15-6:00 PM. Should there be a need for a later end time in the community, Right At School can support that need. Right At School also offers programming over breaks as well as summer camps.

Dr. Luizzi thanked Mr. Case and Ms. Adams for traveling from Chicago to meet with the group and their presentation.

III. Roundtable discussion of before/after school programming options

Discussion ensued regarding the projected need for the Right At School program, as well as the impact it may have on existing programming in town. Based on feedback that the district has received in the past, it is anticipated that there is a need for additional before and after programming and this would not negatively impact existing programs.

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Right At School offers opportunities for cost sharing which would provide opportunities for partnership with New Canaan High School Scholarship Foundation.

Discussions continued about the weekly cost for families and the importance of affordable options for working families. Further clarification on pricing was requested and it was clarified after the meeting that costs are set on a monthly basis rather than weekly.

The group discussed experiences with similar programs in neighboring districts and the positive impact they had on students and families.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.