

September 9, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are aware, in the spring the school department and school committee were faced with the challenge of developing a school budget in difficult economic conditions. At that time, to prevent further staff reductions, a decision was made to reduce the number of buses and split the school hours at Taft Elementary School. This was a sound decision based upon the data we had at that time.

During the first four days of school the administration has listened to your concerns and evaluated all aspects of the transportation of our students to and from school. Every year there are delays in our bus runs and every year it takes a couple of weeks of adjustments to smooth out the runs. Although we have made substantial gains in bus run times from the first day, there are still some runs and conditions that simply won't improve with our current school start and end times.

Therefore, I am making the following adjustments:


- Taft Elementary School will not have split times. Taft will return to one start and end time for all grades. I anticipate the start time to be approximately 8:30 am but that has not been finalized.
- An extra bus or two will be added

Please note that **these changes will not** go into affect immediately. It will take approximately 1 ½ weeks for the bus company to rearrange the routes and make these changes. We will give you advanced notice as to when this change will occur but in the meantime it is important that we do not make any further changes to the runs as they exist now. Also, please note that the cost of these changes will have to come from other areas in our budget.

This does not change the fact that there are many group bus stop locations and students may have to walk to a bus stop. Some of you have expressed concern that the location of the stop may not be safe. These areas have or will be looked at and a determination of the safety of the stop will be made in consultation with the bus company.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,


George Zini
Superintendent of Schools