



## Fox Chapel Area School District

Start School Later Meeting Facilitation – Update – June 3, 2019

The objective of The Hill Group's assistance to Fox Chapel Area is to facilitate a well-rounded discussion on the positive implications and potential challenges of an 8:30 AM high school start time in Fox Chapel Area. This discussion is to inform future conversations and decision-making. The Hill Group is not recommending a course of action and will synthesize the outcomes of site team conversations.

To this end, The Hill Group:

- Facilitated a conversation with district site-based teams on February 6, 2019 focused on providing background, identifying group impressions of positive and negative outcomes, and identifying data and research needs. Notes from the session were distributed to all site-based team members and are [available online](#).
- Facilitated a second conversation with site-based teams on April 23, 2019 focused on deepening knowledge on sleep-related health issues for teens, identifying implementation challenges, identifying existing flexible school day options, and identifying additional data and research needs. Notes from the session were distributed to all site-based team members and are [available online](#).

Throughout the process, the following information has been provided to inform conversations:

- Dr. Peter Franzen's presentation on the [impacts of reduced sleep for teens](#)
- [Fall 2018 State of Schools](#)
- [2018-2019 Recognitions](#)
- [2018-2019 Athletic Highlights](#)
- [PA School Start Time Change Info](#)
- [FCASD Health and Mental Health](#)
- [Busing Start Time Analysis](#)
- [Existing High School Flexible Schedule Options](#)

Next steps are likely to include a third site-based teams meeting to gain building-level consensus on start times. This session will be scheduled at a later date.



## **Fox Chapel Area School District**

Strategic Plan/Comprehensive Plan – Update – June 3, 2019

The Hill Group was engaged to facilitate the development of a Strategic Plan for Fox Chapel Area that could be used to set direction for the district as well as satisfy Pennsylvania Department of Education Comprehensive Plan requirements.

To this end, The Hill Group:

- Defined a year-long methodology for plan development
- Facilitated a retreat with the Board in August 2018 to review and affirm mission, vision, and values, discuss local and national trends, and conduct an Environmental Scan.
- Facilitated a retreat with District Support Personnel and Administration in October 2018 to conduct an Environmental Scan, review and affirm mission, vision, and values, perform a SWOT Analysis, and prioritize issues.
- Worked with district leadership to engage site-based teams at each district building to discuss mission and vision, perform a SWOT Analysis, and suggest future priorities for the district. Over several months, parents, community members, administrators, teachers, staff, and students provided information for planning.
- Information from those sessions, as well as from prior community meetings and surveys, was compiled and analyzed. The information was coded and sorted into categories to develop the strategic initiatives that will be used to design the plan.
- District Support Personnel and Administration are crafting initial goals related to their specific departments and responsibilities in the district. These goals will be compiled and analyzed to establish the plan goals that encompass the priorities identified through the process.
- Following this session, the Hill Group will begin synthesizing the information and writing the Strategic Plan. Parts of the plan will then be pulled into the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Comprehensive Plan Template<sup>1</sup> to meet the requirements for the Fall submission. This plan will be posted for a 28-day review and then recommended for board approval and submission.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the PDE Comprehensive Plan Template is changing and schools are only required to submit very limited information this year. According to PDE there are many unknowns as to when the new system will be implemented and what districts will be required to submit.