



June 12, 2020

Hello SDNB families,

As we've previously shared with families and the community, the School District of New Berlin anticipates continued structural deficits for the next several years as we pay down debt associated with the building of Ronald Reagan Elementary and improvements at New Berlin West (performing arts center, fieldhouse, etc.) out of our operating budget.

As a result, both before and since the failed operating referendum in the spring of 2019, the Board of Education has tasked administration with bringing forward cost-saving measures to help balance future budgets and help re-fund the district's long-range facility plans. At its meeting Monday night, the School Board approved two such measures - changes in our transportation system and coinciding changes to our school start and end times.

Starting in the fall for the 2020-21 school year - should the district be able to operate school normally – the district is going from a two-tiered bus system to a three-tiered system. We are also moving to neighborhood stops rather than the current practice of picking up and dropping off students at the nearest corner. (Kindergarten front-door pick-ups/drop-offs will remain unchanged). As a result, our start and end times for 2020-21 and beyond will be:

- Eisenhower and West: 7:25 a.m. and 2:40 p.m.
- Elmwood and Orchard Lane: 8:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.
- Poplar Creek and Ronald Reagan: 8:50 a.m. and 3:50 p.m.

We understand that the change in school start and end times might not be popular or welcomed by all SDNB families. We know these changes may cause an inconvenience for some, and we hope by knowing this information early this summer, you will have time to adjust and plan as needed. As has been the case in previous years, Y Base, the [YMCA's before- and after-school care program](#), will be available at our elementary schools starting at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m. every school day.

The change to a three-tiered system coupled with the neighborhood stops will significantly reduce the number of buses needed to transport our students daily and is expected to save the district between \$350,000 and \$400,000 annually. That's a savings of more than \$1.5 million over the remaining four years of our transportation contract.

This change will provide financial relief without being detrimental to teaching and learning by affecting staffing or class sizes; will allow us to put money back into our long-range facilities plan; and will help us slow the district's cycle of deferred maintenance.

We will continue to look for ways to improve the district's financial health, especially those that do not negatively impact our classrooms.

Thank you,

Joe Garza, Superintendent