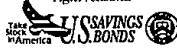


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The forum, which will include testimony from a pediatrician from the University of Michigan Hospital, is sponsored by these school districts: Clarencoville, Farmington, Huron Valley, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield.

If start time changes are made, Maxfield said, high school students might begin their day at 8:15 a.m., instead of 7:30 a.m. Minnesota high schools moved their starting time back an hour, he said.

"There's the argument, 'What does it do to afternoon sports?'" Maxfield said, adding the committee will explore those implications.

"We would be affected mainly with practices," said Denise Albrecht, a booster parent with the Farmington High School Falcon Society. "Baseball is immediately after school."

She hadn't heard about the

upcoming discussions. Farmington Schools has already made a big change in athletics; the district will leave the Western Lakes League and become a member of the Oakland Athletic Association next fall.

"Coaches pushed for this," Albrecht said of the new league affiliation. It will mean sometimes traveling as far as Clarkston, Lake Orion and Rochester Hills. "There will be an impact during rush hour," she said.

Tom Chrzanowski, president of the Farmington Education Association, which represents district teachers, said he is personally approaching the committee process with an open mind.

Though school superintendents have discussed the topic among themselves, one may be wary to be first or stand alone in making the change. That could be the reason why several districts are sponsoring the Nov. 28 forum, he said.

"It's helpful to know others are looking at this," Maxfield

Chrzanowski said there's a variety of issues to be consid-

ered, including: a tight budget, fiscal responsibility, student employment after school, costs to implement transportation changes, athletic schedules and day care issues.

"We need to look at the research which has been generated," Chrzanowski said. "We have to be sensitive to as many people's needs as possible."


Subcommittees are inevitable, he said, because "the topic is so broad."

Not all kids like to sleep in.

"We have a lot of 4.0s (grade point averages) who are doing well academically with a 7:30 a.m. start time," Chrzanowski said. "Will we have to hold athletic practices in the morning? That would be defeating the pur-

Phil Neuman, who ran unsuccessfully for school board in June, has accepted a committee position. He said the later start time was an issue he heard while campaigning door-to-door and he mentioned it during his campaign. "This is one of the things I think we should be exploring more," Neuman said.

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