



JUNE 19, 2008

**S**ome community members are expressing interest in seeking a seat on the Holly Board of Education. The new board member term begins January 1, 2009. These individuals then ask what is the process for seeking a seat on a board of education. Our school district does not oversee the election of school board members. If anyone has questions regarding the election process of local school district board of education members, please contact the Oakland County Elections Division, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48341. The phone number is 248-858-0564. The e-mail address is [elections@oakgov.com](mailto:elections@oakgov.com). The Oakland County Elections Division office is located in the Oakland County Courthouse.

Candidates for the local school district board members election [held on November 4, 2008] must file no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2008.

On a much different note, for the 2008-2009 school year, I must direct a change in the starting and ending times for our three secondary schools. Please note that the elementary schools' starting and ending times will not be changed. Please note the following rationales. Indeed, this idea has been in the making for several years, and I truly believe grades 6-12 students will benefit from this change. Also, please note that grades 6-12 students would not be picked up in the morning any earlier to meet these changes.

Buses would drop students at the middle school at 7:15 a.m. with the middle school starting time at 7:30 a.m. The middle school would dismiss at 2:10 p.m., and buses would depart the middle school at 2:18 p.m.. These buses would arrive at the high school at 2:35 p.m. and leave the high school at 2:48 p.m.

Buses would drop students at Richter Intermediate School at 7:30 a.m. with the RIS school starting time at 7:45 a.m. RIS would dismiss at 2:25 p.m., and buses would depart RIS at 2:33 p.m.. These buses would arrive at the high school at 2:40 p.m. and leave the high school at 2:48 p.m.

Buses would drop students at Holly High School at 7:30 a.m. with the high school starting time at 7:50 a.m. HHS would dismiss at 2:40 p.m., and buses would leave the high school at 2:48 p.m.

The time adjustment is necessary to accommodate vocational students in their daily transition to and from OTC and HHS. Without the time change, students have a 35 minute gap in their schedule that will cause reductions in academic credit and district revenue.

Yet, other advantages exist as well. This adjustment allows less congestion at Holly High School in the morning with fewer buses dropping off the students. Reduced a.m. traffic flow will provide for a safer entrance and exit for vehicles on East Holly Road. Research also indicates high school age students require more sleep than middle school students, and the change would allow self-transporting students to begin school 30 minutes later than current times.

The middle school would have less wait time from bus drop off until the start of the school day. Regarding Richter Intermediate School, the proposed bus drop off time (7:30 a.m.) and starting time (7:45a.m.) are positive reductions in unstructured student waiting time in the cafeteria. This year, students are arriving from 7:00 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. with about 30 to 45 minutes of wait time prior to RIS's start.

Additional information will be distributed throughout the summer on these issues as well as other items of interest. If you wish to be placed on my community e-mail list, just send your e-mail address to [kent.barnes@has-k12.org](mailto:kent.barnes@has-k12.org).

Remember, school buses still travel the roads throughout the summer.