At the second School Start Time Advisory Committee meeting, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Robert Monroe welcomed committee members and thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated that he will facilitate the meetings, but urged the members to bring up important issues, cares and concerns they may have going forward. A quick recap of group norms was reviewed followed by an overview of the district’s visions and mission, committee charge, and decision making model.

The three phases of the study process were reviewed: information gathering, conducting research and gathering stakeholder input, and the final phase of developing recommendations. Mr. Monroe shared that we will review the literature provided at our last meeting and the survey which was delivered to all UCS stakeholders in February.

The committee then discussed the questions that were collected from small group work during first meeting, which will be addressed in depth as future meetings progress. After a review of the discussion, the committee broke into four groups to review the research articles provided in first meeting: Research Brief: School Start Times and Adolescent Students, School Start Times and Student Outcomes, Literature Review: Optimal School Start Times, and Impact of School Start Times on Student Learning. Groups then shared findings. Discussion ensued around mood, alertness, and mental health for students as a positive for later start times. The articles showed inconclusive results to link student achievement to later start times and the need for a change in start time for elementary age children. Absences and tardiness seemed to vary - starting out favorable but settling back into past attendance patterns.

Monroe provided the findings of the community survey conducted mid February and gave a short review of the results. The committee then provided feedback reactions to the survey. He reminded the committee members to suggest and email articles to him that would benefit this community perception and research phase. Index cards were available for questions, comments and concerns for the next meeting.

The meeting finished with an article provided to the committee to read prior to the next meeting: “School Start Time Change: An In-Depth Examination of School Districts in the United States” by The Children’s National Medical Center’s Blueprint for Change Team.