



**Anne Arundel County Chapter | Maryland**  
health, safety and equity in education

Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: [sslaaco@gmail.com](mailto:sslaaco@gmail.com)

**Candidate Name: Ken Baughman**

The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and many other public health groups recommend that middle and high school start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. In 2014, a joint report from the Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health recommended that school systems conduct feasibility studies to determine the possibility of starting schools after 8 a.m. These experts base their recommendation on numerous studies that connect changing adolescent sleep patterns and early middle and high school start times to lower academic achievement, negative physical and mental health conditions, and risky behaviors among teens.

A 2014 Start Time Task Force by Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) recommended several potential options to improve school hours. In February 2015, the County Council unanimously passed Resolution 6-15 urging AACPS to follow the recommendations of its 2014 Task Force and “expeditiously take measures to establish safe and healthy high school hours for all students.” In January 2020, AACPS released a [report](#) by Prismatic Services, Inc regarding school transportation, bus routing, software use, facilities, logistics, and potential bell times. In Recommendations #27, Prismatic proposed two options for bell times that could be implemented at *no additional cost*, with fewer routes and fewer miles driven. Option 1: Elementary at 8 a.m., Middle and High schools at 9 a.m. Option 2: Elementary at 7:30 a.m., High School at 8:15 a.m., and Middle School at 9:00 a.m. At its January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Board of Education agreed to a late February/early March in-depth discussion of start times.

**1. Will you sign Start School Later’s 2017 petition at <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/establish-safe-and-healthy-school-hours-in-anne-arundel-county> ? If you won’t sign it, please explain why.**

I would sign a petition.

**2. Based on the research that later middle and high school start times increase graduation rates and decrease absenteeism, with disadvantaged students benefiting the most from age-appropriate school hours, do you feel the current school hours affects the County’s ability to be a leader in K-12 education for all students?**

No

**3. What hours would you define as healthy, safe, and age appropriate? The current school hours are: Elementary 8:10-9:45 a.m. start times, Middle School 8:10-9:25 a.m. start times, and High School 7:30 a.m. start time.**

Elementary School: 8:00

Middle School: 9:00

High School: 9:00

**4. In Recommendations #27 of its report, Prismatic Services, Inc. proposed two options for bell times that could be implemented at *no additional cost*, with fewer routes and fewer miles driven. Option 1: Elementary at 8 a.m., Middle and High schools at 9 a.m. Option 2: Elementary at 7:30 a.m., High School at 8:15 a.m., and Middle School at 9:00 a.m. What do you think about these two proposed options? What would be your timeline of implementation, now that altering school hours could be done without needing to include a funding request in the budget proposal?**

Option 1

**5. In your prior experience and positions, what have you done to ensure all Anne Arundel County Public School students (K-12) have healthy, safe, and age appropriate school hours?**

I have attended meeting on the change in school hours when they were first proposed.

**6. In your elected position, what will you do to ensure healthy and safe school hours for all of Anne Arundel County Public School Students? Please be specific: Resolutions, recommendations, funding requests, educational outreach, implementation efforts, etc.**

I would support any change that would improve the health of our students. I would recommend the change to support the health of the student's..

**7. What is your timeframe for your actions in Question 5? Please be specific, Fiscal Year, School Year, etc.**

I am not on the board yet. I would need time to understand the way the Board works in these situations.

**8. Is there anything else you would like your constituents and future voters to know about your position on safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours?**

I am always for the student's well-being. In fact that is the main reason for running for the Board of Education.