

ATTACHMENT NO. XI-D: Transportation Committee Report

Suggested motion: Hear the report

Recommended action: Informational Item

When the Board requested that the staff conduct a review of the transportation program, I appointed Sharon Olds to head a committee to answer the four questions below. Their final report is attached. I anticipate that several committee members will be available to answer any questions and potentially expand on the report.

Questions for the Transportation Committee to consider.

1. Are there any areas where we currently provide transportation, which we could potentially eliminate?
2. Are the routes that could be combined? This may also require consideration of allowing for longer route time.
3. Should be consider implementing a modest fee for parents when the students are not transported from home to school (e.g. dropped off as a day care or babysitter)?
4. Are there other potential efficiencies with regard to the routing and transportation of students?
5. Any other potential cost savings or efficiencies that can be suggested.

Date: February 15, 2011

To: Dr. Baule, Superintendent

From: Sharon Olds, on behalf of the Transportation Committee

Re: Transportation Committee Report and Recommendations

The ad hoc Transportation Committee met on 1/12/11, 1/25/11, and 2/9/11 to look at artifacts related to the transportation department in a collaborative effort to find ways to reduce some transportation costs. The committee members represented the school staff, families, transportation department, and administration.

During the first meeting, we learned about many aspects of transportation including routing, school enrollments, class sizes, budgets, costs, and reimbursements. After this meeting, participants were asked to submit any idea that they had to be compiled for discussion at the next meeting. All suggestions were discussed in detail over the next two meetings to generate a final list of recommendations. The recommendations were prioritized at the end of the last meeting.

The committee recognized that the highest percentages of the budget are directed towards salaries and fuel, and the list of recommendations attempts to address these areas. In order of priority:

1. Establish Anti-Idling policy (The committee feels that this could be done right away)
2. Combine bus routes
3. Work with other districts/entities to increase buying power
4. Work to eliminate transportation to school for students within 1.5 mile radius in the Villages of Poplar Grove and Capron
5. Establish a fee for route changes
6. Increase amounts we charge for charter services
7. Decrease activity bus to one time per week
8. Reduce other supply costs beyond fuel

Please review the corresponding working document as desired.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the athletic committee to consider: Raise Athletic Fees and Maximize game scheduling

We were charged with addressing five questions. The following outlines committee response to each question:

1. Are there any areas where we currently provide transportation which we could potentially eliminate? **Recommendation #4, #7. There were also conversations related to charging a fee for riders within 1.5 miles.**
2. Are there routes that could be combined? **Our study of routes indicates that this is a definite possibility. There are several routes with sparse ridership. An audit of ridership could be completed as directed. However, we believe that good software should come up with alternative routing scenarios.**
3. Should we consider implementing a modest fee for parents when the students are not transported from their home to school? **Yes, Recommendation 5 addresses any change.**
4. Are there other potential efficiencies with regard to the routing and transportation of students? **We believe that software should streamline routes effectively.**
5. Are there any other potential cost savings or efficiencies that can be suggested? **#1, #3, #8**

We will provide any other information as requested.

The following members are to be commended for their contributions, time and work:

Ed Mulholland, Transportation

Chad Cunningham, Capron Parent

Brian Wallace, Poplar Grove Parent

Scott Aska, Band Director and Substitute Bus Driver

Denny Jeffers, Bus Driver

Lynn Brody, Teacher and Coach

Kim Moore, Special Education Director

Cathy Richardson, Manchester Parent