

PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
January 16, 2020

The Transportation Formula Committee met on Thursday January 16, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the DDOE Cabinet Room 2nd Floor, Townsend Bldg. Those in attendance were:

Chuck Longfellow, DOE	Kelly Shahan, Red Clay SD	Jason Bonner, Caesar Rodney SD
Bruce Ashby, Capital SD	Tyler Bryan, DOE	Lee Dean, DOE
Linda Sullivan, DOE	Garcia Garnett, Christina SD	
Bonnie Dixon, DOE	Gerald Dutton, Contractor	
Tom Harmon, Contractor	Kimberly Klein, DOE	

Two Guests: David Zickafoose & Shay Edwards

Welcome:

Mr. Bryan started the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Bryan asked for the committee members to review the meeting minutes from December 3, 2019. A motion was made by Kelly Shahan and seconded by Jason Bonner to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Workgroup Updates/Discussion on past meeting topics:

- Discipline-Mr. Longfellow & Mr. Bryan reported they met with a small group of Superintendents to address continuous behavior problems on buses. They were informed specific data outlining the problems must be submitted before issue is taken to entire group of Superintendents. Mr. Bryan informed group to make sure they are reporting problems through the proper chain of command.
- Benefits-Mr. Bryan inquired from Mr. Dutton if any updates have been made by Mr. Stabler concerning benefits for contractors. Update will be given by Mr. Stabler at next meeting.
- Miles per minute-Trip-Spark provided data from 4 of our districts that use GPS. The one day snapshot showed that average time to move one mile was 4.1. It was to be noted that the upstate drivers are doing triple tier and not able to move as far due to traffic issues. If mile per-minute is a topic the committee wants to move forward with, more data collection will be required.
- Transportation Position Funding-Ms. Sullivan discussed data collected from each district on position descriptions and highlighted low personnel in Sussex County. Mr. Bonner made suggestion to possibly going to # of student's enrollment vs # of Transportation personnel to include in final request. Ms. Klein discussed the cost associated with unit counts for schools. Mr. Longfellow asked if there should be a structure designed for # of kids being transported or walkers. Mr. Longfellow felt requesting additional funding for position was worth adding to list. Mr. Ashby also felt due to new federal regulations and additional buses being added to Districts, this should be on top of request list. Ms. Sullivan informed group that NJ now has Operation Safety Managers.

Review of Driver/Aide Compensation:

Mr. Bryan discussed the current difference in compensation between the driver and aide allowance. The aide allowance is currently tied to the state service aide scale. Currently, drivers are compensated less than a bus aide. The group discussed average driver pay rates to formulate a fair increase for drivers. Mr. Garcia's starting driver pay rate is \$18.14, Mr. Ashby's is \$17.40, Mr. Bonner's is \$16.25, & Ms. Shahan's is \$18.77. The difference between formula pay rates and districts, is the district can use local money to go above and beyond the formula rate. The committee agreed this is a concern and that driver compensation needs to be a focus.

Safety Initiatives-Crash Test Video:

Mr. Bryan showed video and group discussed cost associated with installation of lap/shoulder seatbelts on all new buses which would be a 14 year process. Video showed side impact crashes with school buses and why seatbelts would improve the safety

of the children. The crash test video demonstrated the force of side-impact with some students wearing seatbelts and others not. One of the crash test dummies without a seatbelt was ejected and another partially ejected. The cost to install seatbelts would cost 8K-10K per bus. States that switched have shown a lot of behavior improvements.

Prioritize request items for April's Report:

The committee reviewed items that they would want to see included in the April report. The top 4 goals from last year were 1.7 Million Admin Cost increase, Request for Double/Triple Routes, Stop Arm Legislation, & Fire Suppression. The committee has not prioritized them, but only have determined items they want included for this year. Those items are investment in administrative allowance phase in, increase of driver hourly rate, double-triple tier allowance, float bus aides for every 20 buses, fire suppression, and requirement of seat belts on buses. Future meeting will define the items as well as prioritize the order of their request.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Adjourned 12:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., DDOE Cabinet Room-Townsend Bldg.

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