



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 2, 2014
Seymour Middle School
Library Media Center
7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Sandra Gesek
Kristen Harmeling
Allison Sobieski-McAndrew
Yashu Putorti
Lee-Ann Dauerty, Board Clerk

Others in Attendance: Christine Syriac
Rick Belden
Jim Freund
Rob Dyer

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mrs. Syriac called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. Syriac asked for nominations for the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee. She asked again three times. Ms. Gesek nominated Ms. Harmeling.

MOTION: (Ms. Gesek/Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew) to appoint Ms. Harmeling as chairperson of the Transportation Committee

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Putorti

Mrs. Syriac turned the meeting over to Ms. Harmeling.

III. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A. Information and Recommended Action

1. Parent Request regarding Bus Stop

Mr. Belden explained the procedure for parents to follow when they have an issue with transportation. A parent's first point of contact is with Mrs. Boyle. Mrs. Boyle will work with the bus company to resolve the dispute. However, if they are unable to resolve it, the issue is then sent to Mr. Belden. In this case, the parent had a concern with their child having to cross Roosevelt Drive. Mr. Belden indicated they work very hard to make the bus routes work so children do not have to cross the street. The bus company expectation is a high school student is able to cross the street. The parent asked to appeal to the Board. However, after working with the bus company, the issue was able to be resolved by having the bus turn around. Mr. Belden reported that this is the week where they monitor the bus routes and will make changes if necessary. They try to keep the runs under 40 minutes, with 5-7 minutes to load the bus at the end of the day.. Mr. Putorti said that Don Smith told him the Boys and Girls Club bus is nearing 60 students who ride various buses. Mrs. Syriac confirmed and said that if it goes over 60 it may be a problem. Currently, there are 18 from the middle school but Bungay School is problematic. If more kids are added they will not be able to use just one bus. We will be keeping an eye on the situation.

B. Reports

1. Chairman's Report

Ms. Harmeling reported that all is good in her household and the problem with her child and the bus stop has been resolved.

2. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Syriac asked Mr. Belden to do an update. Mr. Belden said they will continue to monitor arrival and departure times and tweak the routes as needed. Currently, All Star is gathering all the contractual information such as bus drivers' names, names of substitutes, and DMV information. He also noted that all bus drivers are subject to random drug testing. Regarding the exterior cameras, the company is doing surveys of our routes and will be making recommendations on what routes will benefit from the use of exterior cameras. He feels the main routes will be the focus and once it is decided, it will probably stay that way. Mr. Belden reported that opening day went well. We do what we can to make changes when necessary. Students will come and go which can impact the bus routes. Bus drivers may be moved around as needed. He noted that All Star had more transition with regard to bus drivers this year in comparison to the recent past. Ms. Harmeling asked about the new lanes painted at Bungay School and if they were working. Mrs. Syriac said she felt the lanes were not ideal and worried about cars passing on the left because they are not in the turn lane. She was unsure who did the lanes and noted that they also painted a sidewalk for students to walk on. Ms. Harmeling thanked Mrs. Boyle and Mr. Belden for "manning the front lines" noting that she felt it must be pretty interesting at times. Mr. Putorti noted that some bus drivers did a check at each school while others did not. Mr. Belden said he felt they should do one at each school and also noted that they have a procedure in place at All Star for drivers to do a thorough check at the end of the day.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Ms. Gesek/Ms Sobieski-McAndrew) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Ms. Harmeling, Ms. Sobieski-McAndrew, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Submitted by:
Lee-Ann Dauerty
Board Clerk