



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 18, 2011

Central Office

7:00 p.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Kubik, Yashu Putorti, MaryAnne Mascolo, Rick Belden, Pat Boyle, Leslie Sheldon-All Star Transportation, Steve Gardner-All Star Transportation

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Kubik at 7:06 P.M.

1. **Review of Annual Contractual Requirements**

Mr. Belden shared documents that All Star is required to share with us on an annual basis. He pointed out the average fleet age of the buses as of 2008 is five years per our contract. This contract reflects very good language that can be carried forward for years to come. The bus company is involved in all personnel issues; we are not involved at all. The only things we can do are document a problem with a driver and to request that a driver no longer drive for Seymour. He went over the insurance information. Throughout the year other information is shared with us such as the annual Driver Bus Examination by DMV, which was given to Rick tonight. No defects were reported. Periodically Rick will visit the All Star Facility at 591 North Main and encouraged members of this committee to visit the site.

2. **Review of Open Parent Bus Stop Issue**

Rick indicated that we are now in our third year of using the Transfinder system. When we receive a complaint or concern of the parent, we do everything in our power to accommodate the change if it is at all possible. Parents are asked to call Central Office first when they have a concern and if All Star received a call from a parent, they are told to call Central Office. Pat Boyle demonstrated how she uses Transfinder when a parent calls in with a complaint or concern. The first thing she does is pull the route of the bus that is a concern to the parents. She noted that parents do not always understand that the bus their child is riding might be used to do a run at the middle school and the high school also. There was a discussion of what parents want and what we can actually do for them. If a stop can be changed, we will change it. The safety of the students is our priority. Rick indicated when Chatfield and LoPresti combines they will use that opportunity to fix some of our problem areas. The parent issue raised at the recent Board of Education meeting was resolved by making a change to the route by adding stops into the "Stars" area (Capricorn, Morning Star, Jupiter, and Evening Star). Mr. Belden indicated it was not a safety issue but we made the change because we were able to and want to accommodate parents' wishes whenever we can. Ms. Mascolo indicated that the proper chain of command needs to be understood by parents. Mrs. Boyle is the first person to receive the complaint/concern. If she is unable to resolve it, then Mr. Belden will try to handle it. If he is unable to resolve the issue, it goes to the Superintendent and then to the Board of Education Transportation Committee.

2. Review of Open Parent Bus Stop Issue (continued)

Although parents want immediate action it is not possible to resolve some issues immediately as we follow certain protocols such as having the bus company send a "safety officer" to the bus stop to assess the situation. We always try to accommodate parents when it is possible. We also contacted the Fusco Corporation and they agreed not to park their trucks on both sides of the street which helped to alleviate some of the concerns. After the discussion regarding the parent issue, Pat showed some of the features of Transfinder, including what parents can see when they log on to the site.

3. Chairman's Report

None

4. Superintendent's Report

None

MOTION: (Mr. Putorti /sec., Mr. Kubik) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Putorti, Mr. Kubik

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by:
MaryAnne Mascolo