

SEYMOUR
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Transportation Committee
Minutes
May 5, 2009
Central Office
12:30 p.m.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Rhonda Geffert, Judy Flood, Jim Garofolo, MaryAnne Mascolo, Rick Belden

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

Rick Belden reviewed the questions regarding the process of the Transfinder Software. Mr. Belden explained the workload and schedule of the person who will manage the Transfinder Software. April Judd has been assigned as the administrative assistant in charge of the day to day management of the Transfinder program and is currently being trained. We are currently in the process of rolling over the information to prepare for the start of the transportation process for the 2009-10 school year. Dawn Brundage is our contact person at All-Star Transportation. Bus route assignments should be done during the month of June. Rick hopes to share the parent portal with the committee members during the next Transportation Committee meeting. This will be a link on the Seymour Schools website that will allow parents access to the Transfinder information. The information will be on the website by July 9th and in the newspapers by August 3rd. This will allow the parents time to review the information and contact us with concerns well before school starts and will give us time to resolve the problems. There will be form to complete that can be emailed and a dedicated voice mailbox for phone calls regarding bus issues only. Hopefully this will eliminate problems well before school starts. The late bus notification issue is being worked on. The schools will have the information and we will work with them to set up the emergency portion of Connect Ed. This is for buses that are 20 minutes late to the bus stops. This is a big job as the bus lists will have to be created into lists for Connect Ed. This is a goal for this summer. Rick feels about 80-85% of students enrolled in school ride a bus. Walking students are determined by a number of factors determined by the state guidelines for walkers. We work to consolidate stops so we don't have two buses drive the same area. The next step after the information is updated in the system is to determine where we might be able to consolidate and maximize the number of kids on a single bus. The bulk of the work for updating Transfinder will be done between now and September and then most of the work consists of emails and phone calls regarding new students, establishing a bus stop if necessary and notifying the schools and any parent complaints that might need to be addressed. All transportation issues are funneled through April and Rick which gives us a better bank of knowledge regarding transportation. Schools will be opening at a certain time for student arrival. For example, the high school will not be open for students until 7:00 a.m. next year. Bus routes will be adjusted so the buses will not arrive until the assigned opening time for students. In the future, we should be able to let parents know when the buses will arrive at a given bus stop. All-Star Bus Company will have access to all the information on Transfinder. We have already started assigning bus routes for kindergarteners. This is early and a new process this year. Over the summer, we will be adding new students as their information becomes available. Registered students will already have their information regarding bus stops well before orientation. We still need to address how to handle late registration. Parents who register late may have a week where they will have to provide transportation until the stop can be established. We have determined that splitting the kindergarten students into am/pm based on street will not be practical because of the small size of Chatfield and LoPresti.

In 2010-2011, we will be looking at the entire bus routes to see what we can do to make the routes be more efficient. With the new timelines, we feel the kindergarten parents will know well in advance what bus their child will be riding. Rick will be getting input from the administrators to determine a cut-off date for registration. Rick would like All-Star to do a better job of training their substitutes, maybe even having dedicated substitutes to certain routes if this is possible. The goal is to have all the information at the parent's fingertips by next year. The contract with All-Star Transportation is a five year contract.

MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert/Mr. Garofolo) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Flood, Mr. Garofolo

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Submitted by:
MaryAnne Mascolo