

Seymour Board of Education



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 18, 2017
Central Office
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 4/20/17
TIME: 11:30 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Harmeling
Fred Stanek
Allison Sobieski (7:30 p.m.)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Ms. Harmeling called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Review and Possible Action on proposed new transportation services contract with All-Star Transportation

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to approve the proposed new transportation services contract with All-Star Transportation and recommend it to the full Board for final approval.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Stanek

Discussion on the motion was opened. Mr. Belden explained the handouts that were included in the board packet. He stated that our current five year contract expires June 30, 2018. All-Star Transportation has submitted a letter proposing an extension of the contract through the 2021-2022 school year. This contract would include the purchase of new propane fueled buses. Mr. Belden felt that going to propane buses makes the most sense for the following reasons; 1) direction that the bus industry is heading 2) propane is more environmentally friendly 3) propane is more economical 4) propane is safer 5) propane buses have less mechanical problems 6) propane buses operate better in cold weather. Mr. Belden has spoken to surrounding towns that have gone to propane fueled buses and they were all pleased with the buses. Ms. Harmeling said she was happy with the service that All-Star has been providing. She also said she was sure our drivers like to be located in their own town. Mr. Belden said that All-Star was going to put in the propane filling station on the Seymour lot at no cost to us. He also said that he would be looking at joining a consortium to help with the price of the propane. The savings going to propane is already significant and if the government continues their alternative energy tax credit that would result in additional savings. Mr. Stanek wanted to make sure that using our own vendor for the purchase of propane was in the contract as well as checking to make sure the Seymour buses are registered in town so they are taxed in town. Mrs. Harmeling asked if there were any parental concerns about the safety of propane. Mr. Belden said the company is willing to come out and give a video presentation showing that in fact propane is safer due to its flashpoint. Mr. Stanek wanted to know if there had been any negotiations on pricing. Mr. Belden said he did not want to do any negotiations until he was sure the board was in favor of moving this forward. After discussion the committee was in agreement to move this to the full board for approval.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to approve the proposed new transportation services contract with All-Star Transportation and recommend it to the full Board for final approval

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Stanek, Ms. Sobieski

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman's Report
None

B. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Belden wanted the committee to be aware that we have been approached by the Seymour Police about the Martha/Bank Street bus stop. They feel the stop is unsafe and would like to have us change it. This has been an existing stop for many years and meets all of the safety guidelines. We have a letter from All-Star Transportation stating that going up Martha Street is not a safe alternative. At this time we are not going to be moving the stop. Mr. Stanek indicated that the Seymour Police Department may send a representative to one of our committee meetings if desired to share their reasoning behind the request.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Ms. Harmeling/sec. Mr. Stanek) to adjourn

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Sobieski, Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Stanek

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle