

Seymour Board of Education



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 17, 2018
CLS Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/24/2018
TIME: 11:52 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Champagne
Jen Magri
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Fred Stanek
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Belden, Assistant Superintendent
Steve Gardner, All-Star Transportation
Ron Horowitz, CLS Parent
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mrs. Magri nominated Mr. Champagne as chairperson. No other nominations were made and Mr. Champagne was appointed as Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ronald Horowitz addressed the committee regarding his request to add a bus stop on Spring Street. Mrs. Magri explained to Mr. Horowitz that he could speak and if the committee wanted to respond to his request and address it during the meeting, it would be added to the agenda. Mr. Horowitz is requesting a bus stop be added to the middle of Spring Street. He feels that Pearl/Spring is unsafe for the following reasons; cars travel too fast on Pearl, no sidewalks on that side of street, and there are banks on the side of the road. He has been asking for this change since the first day of school and has been denied by Central Office. He was told to come to the Transportation Committee to present his request.

MOTION: (Mrs. Magri /sec., Mr. Champagne) to add Mr. Horowitz's request to the Agenda.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Magri, Mr. Champagne

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Parent Suggestions

1. Request to add a stop on Spring Street

Mr. Champagne asked how we go about handling these types of requests for establishing a new bus stop. Mr. Belden explained that we forward the requests to Mr. Gardner at the bus company and then he and/or a safety officer visits the site and reviews the request and they then make a determination on the appropriateness of the request. Mr. Horowitz's stop is actually at Pearl and Great Oak Ridge, but his child was incorrectly assigned to the Pearl / Spring Street stop. Mr. Belden talked about a couple of key items regarding the stops at Pearl / spring and Pearl / Great Oak Ridge, which Mr. Horowitz had indicated were unsafe in his opinion. These are stops that have been in place for many years with no issues. Also, there are many similar stops around town; many stops have no sidewalks and many stops are on busy roads. The bus company feels that both of these stops meet the criteria of a safe bus stop, which include line of sight and the fact that the students are picked up on the door side of the street and do not need to walk in front of the bus or cross Pearl Street to access the bus stop. The bus company did offer to add a stop at the corner of Spring/Smith if Mr. Horowitz would prefer to use that stop. After much discussion with Mr. Horowitz the committee agree to come out and examine the existing bus stops one morning. Mrs. Magri said after the bus stop visit a decision would be rendered and Mr. Horowitz would be notified of the committee's findings.

"IT'S ALL ABOUT STUDENT LEARNING"

2. Dismissal Manager

This was a suggestion for a software application presented at the last Board of Education Meeting that would allow the changing of bus assignments for issues such as day care, work after school and play dates on a daily basis by parents using their mobile phones / computers. Mr. Belden explain that our current system of not allowing daily changes to bus assignments is for the safety of the children. We need to be able to know which students are on specific buses in case of emergency. Also, students with health issues are identified on the driver run sheets by our nurses. If students are transferring buses, there is the real possibility that this information will be unavailable to the driver. He also pointed out that many of our elementary school buses are at capacity and to allowing random switching of buses could cause an overcrowding issue on the buses. The committee decided not to entertain this request at this time.

B. Review the 2018-2019 annual contractual requirements-Rick Belden

Mr. Belden handed out the list of this years' buses and bus drivers for the committee to review. Mr. Champagne asked about the monitor position. Mr. Gardner explained that monitors are on the special education to assist the drivers with the students; many students have IEPs that require a monitor be with them. Mr. Gardner also told the committee the propane filling station is complete and operational. Mr. Belden said currently we are paying 99 cents a gallon and could possibly get a rebate from the government. Mrs. Magri asked about the turnover rate for drivers in Seymour. Mr. Gardner said it is relatively low in Seymour. Last year was high for us with 4 drivers leaving the company. Mrs. Magri asked if we were informed about known road closures. It was reported that we could be better informed. Mr. Belden will look into how to get better notifications on known road closures.

C. Bus Company Information regarding Road Issues-Rick Belden

Mr. Belden submitted a list of areas that the bus drivers felt should be cleared of limbs and trees. He is going to send it to Public Works to review and take possible action on clearing.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Gardner asked about the possibility of changing the policy for both Kindergarten and 1st Grade parents to be at the bus stops. His drivers have concerns about dropping off 1st graders with no one there for them. It was agreed that the committee would look into this issue with the Policy committee.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Mr. Champagne/sec. Mrs. Magri) to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Champagne, Mrs. Magri

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle