

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE FEBRUARY 26, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Doug Wilcox
Board Chairperson

Rickie Clapper
Administrative Representative

Board Members Present: Doug Wilcox, George Gow, Mary Homan, Karl Wimmer and Kathy Mordovancey

Administration Present: Rickie Clapper and Mike Ognosky

Transportation Contractors Present: Jim Ainey, Ron Carlton, Jerry Legg, Bev Legg, Everitt Lowery, Cliff Taylor, Dawn Taylor, Dennis Bunnell, Janis Bunnell, Dave Darrow, Vince Grasafi, Lu Ann Keifer, Ron Keifer, Glenna Tennant, Ruth Snedeker, Ray Grasafi, James Conboy, Judy Allen and Leon Allen.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM

Items Discussed:

Old Business:

- **Transportation Subsidy Process for 2008-2009:** Mr. Ognosky began the discussion by affirming that all of the contractors present received the second installment of the additional transportation subsidy for 2008-2009 – all present indicated that they had received the second installment. Also, Jim Ainey mentioned that this payment was slightly less than the previous. Karl Wimmer responded that the calendar does not take into account snow days and that with the snow days in the second marking period the payment was for only 43, rather than 45, days. All total payments are set on a 180 day calendar so the last of the four payments, which will be received in June, will be the largest.
- **Use of the radios in individual buses:** Mr. Clapper reviewed the purpose of the radios and reminded the contractors to reemphasize to their drivers that the radios are for school business. Also, drivers have the ability to move the conversation to a private channel and should do so when that is appropriate.
- **Bus Safety Education Program:** Dennis Bunnell reported back to the group that the committee of contractors had met with the elementary principals and Mr. Ognosky and a safety program is being developed for the fall of 2009. That program will include the participation of volunteer contractors as well. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the meeting earlier in the day between contractors and building principals discussing the bus discipline process. It was reported that the discussion resulted in the following initiatives: (1) the principals will put together a drivers' handbook on discipline procedures. That handbook will be shared with the contractors and finalized for printing, then distributed to all drivers. (2) A mandatory meeting of all drivers and contractors will be held during the second week of classes in August 2009 (week of August 31-September 4) in which the principals and contractors/drivers will review the handbook contents and establish procedures for 2009-2010. (3) The principals will conduct meetings with the students to reinforce the bus rules and regulations. (4) A follow up discussion with students will be held during the Bus Safety Education program later in the fall. Finally, all contractors were encouraged to maintain communication with the principals regarding bus discipline issues. It was

- emphasized that we are all on the same team working toward the goal of the safe transportation of our students to school on a daily basis.

New Business:

- **Two Hour Delay Procedures:** Mr. Ognosky explained to the contractors that on two hour delay mornings he has received a few calls from parents complaining that the buses are running earlier and their children have missed their scheduled pick up. Contractors present verified that on two hour delay schedules they follow the same pick up schedule as on a typical morning – just two hours later.
- **Drop off times in the morning at the buildings:** Mr. Clapper emphasized that buses are not to drop off students at their buildings prior to the scheduled drop off time. This is a particular concern at Lathrop Street where there are no staff assigned to duty prior to 7:45. Contractors were asked to emphasize to their drivers that students are not to be dropped off prior to 7:45 in the morning at Lathrop.
- **Bus Monitors:** Mr. Ognosky explained that the use of older students as “bus monitors” is a prohibited practice on all buses and needs to cease immediately. Students are not to be put in a position where they have the authority to discipline other students on a bus. This issue has been addressed on several occasions by Mr. McComb at Choconut Valley and needs to end now.
- **Discussion of Transportation Subsidy for 2009-2010:** Currently, the \$60,000 in additional transportation subsidy is included in the proposed budget for 2009-2010.
- **Policy 810 – Idling of Diesel Powered Engines:** A copy of the School Bus Idling Regulations was distributed to all contractors present and is available from Rickie. Currently, all of the regulations contained in the act are being followed by our fleet. Mr. Clapper has ordered the signs that are required for each building and they will be posted when they arrive.
- **Verify current bus rosters:** Contractors are asked to contact Lucille and get a current roster of their bus and review it. Please contact Lucille if there are any changes or differences between the list and the current stops.

Open Forum:

- Dennis Bunnell thanked the board and administration for their support with the recent magisterial court case he had regarding the “bus light” violation in the Montrose Borough.
- Dennis also expressed concern that he continues to observe a high rate of “red light” violations in the borough. That was reinforced by a number of contractors that also run borough routes. The group discussed the matter and asked one of their members, Jim Ainey, to write a letter to the editor reemphasizing the laws regarding this situation and asking people to be more diligent in this situation considering the safety and welfare of our students. Mr. Ognosky will also speak to Mrs. Kaub asking if the “Meteor Chronicle” would consider this subject as a future feature article for the paper.
- James Conboy also commented that he is concerned about the practices of the students driving to school who utilize the North Road. He has encountered a few who have made terrible choices as they drive to school. Mr. Clapper is aware of the situation and is working with the administration to identify those students.
- Cliff Taylor asked if there was a procedure in place by which contractors could be informed of students with health concerns. Mr. Ognosky explained that a list used to be distributed, but HIPPA laws have prohibited that from continuing. Mr. Ognosky will speak to Jean Hollister regarding the situation to see if she has a procedure in place by which parents agree to sign off and allow information to be disseminated.
- LuAnn Keifer asked Mr. Clapper if the high school bus parking area can be lined and painted for next school year identifying the appropriate staging position for each bus at dismissal time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mike Ognosky