

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**  
**MEETING DATE MARCH 22, 2010 6:30 P.M.**

Doug Wilcox  
Board Chairperson

Rickie Clapper  
Administrative Representative

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

Administration Present: Craig Owens and Mike Ognosky

Transportation Drivers/Contractors Present: Dawn Taylor, Dennis and Janis Bunnell, and Jim Ainey.

Meeting commenced at 6:30 PM

**Items Discussed:**

**Old Business:**

- There were no "Old Business" items discussed at tonight's meeting.

**New Business:**

- **Review of the Transportation Subsidy Provided to the Contractors:** Mr. Ognosky explained that the third of the four Transportation Subsidy payments for the 2009-2010 school year will be processed following the 135<sup>th</sup> day of school on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – the end of the third marking period. He also explained that the development of the budget for the 2010-2011 school year has been a very difficult process with cuts in a number of areas including teaching positions, support staff positions and building budgets. With that being said, it is the recommendation of the administration to forego the budgeting of the additional transportation subsidy in the amount of \$60,000 for the 2010-2011 school year. Contractors present presented their concerns with eliminating the subsidy and the concern they have with addressing their annual costs. Chris Caterson reiterated that the cuts to balance the budget have been made across the board. He explained that the budget also reflects no state subsidy increases and if at a point in the future the state budget is passed with additional subsidy included that the decision to forego the transportation subsidy could be revisited by the board. There were no dissenting opinions offered by board members present to that suggestion.
- **Direct Deposit for Contractors:** Mr. Ognosky explained that Mr. Clapper brought this to him as an agenda item and it was discussed with the Business Office. Currently, direct deposit is offered to all Montrose Area School District employees that are paid from the payroll accounts – that service is available in our current software. Contractors are paid out of Accounts Payable and the direct deposit option is currently unavailable from that section of the software. Michelle Lusk, Business Manager, will explore the possibility of having that option made available through the software.
- **Review of Bus Procedures for 2010-2011:** Mr. Ognosky announced that following discussions with Mr. Clapper there are no plans to eliminate any routes for the 2010-2011 school year – all routes will remain as currently held. Currently, in Lucille Gesford's absence, the Technology Department is working with the transportation software company to finalize an accurate route

map and student stop may. Mr. Owens, Technology Director, was present and reviewed the current status of that project and the additional steps that will be needed in order to finalize:

- ✓ We have received an accurate and current road map of the entire school district from 911. That map also now contains all of the houses in the District and their current 911 addresses where available.
  - ✓ We also now have every bus route and the various stops it makes. We still need to have some clarification on those routes in regard to first stop and last stop, bus storage areas, etc. Mr. Owens will be contacting contractors and arranging times for the contractors to come to the Technology Office – that office area is right across the driveway in the back of the school from Rickie’s building – to complete that part of the process. Mr. Owens and two others, Mrs. Evans (Attendance Clerk) and Mrs. Trott (Lucille’s substitute) have been trained on the system and can assist with that work.
  - ✓ The system now has the elementary school attendance areas drawn on the map as well and that will assist in the appropriate placement of students when they first enroll in school.
- **Potential of Radios for Van and Car Contractors:** A discussion was held regarding the need for all van and car contractors to have the same requirement as bus contractors regarding radios in their vehicles. All present felt it would be an excellent asset to communication and would be a worthwhile requirement. Mr. Ognosky will get a list of all of the car contractors and have Mr. Clapper determine how many currently are in need of a radio as some already have that equipment in their vehicles. That information will then be provided to the Board and at that point a final decision will be made on the issue. Mr. Ognosky will then convey that decision to the contractors and make arrangements for their implementation if so decided.

#### **Open Forum:**

- Jim Ainey asked a question regarding the annual contract adjustment process that occurs at the end of each school year. Currently, Lucille took the informational changes that occurred during the year and made final adjustments in those contracts to make accurate final payments to contractors. Mr. Ognosky explained that Mrs. Gesford indicated that there is a potential of her returning on a limited basis prior to the end of the school year and that adjustment process will be at the top of the priority list to accomplish.
- A discussion was held regarding the utilization of the radios by the contractors. It has been emphasized at prior meetings that the radios should be utilized when needed and unnecessary conversation should be eliminated. That issue has improved greatly over the year, but there are still occasions that need to be addressed. Mr. Ognosky and Mr. Clapper will address those issues as they occur.
- Contractors present offered a concern that the last two contractor meetings with Mr. Clapper have been cancelled – they added that both were for very legitimate reasons – and wanted reassurance that they will continue on a regular basis. Mr. Ognosky will make sure Mr. Clapper is aware of this concern.
- Mrs. Mordovancey expressed a concern that a driver was observed utilizing a cell phone while driving a bus occupied by students. Contractors present explained that they understood the concern and utilize their phones in emergencies, etc. and try to keep that use to a minimum. They have also expressed that to their drivers they employ. Currently there is no legislation (either state or federal) that prohibits that practice.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

*Mike Ognosky*