

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE MAY 5, 2009 7:30 P.M.

Doug Wilcox
Board Chairperson

Rickie Clapper
Administrative Representative

Board Members Present: Doug Wilcox, George Gow, Julie Humphrey, Gloria Smith and Kathy Mordovancey

Administration Present: Rickie Clapper and Mike Ognosky

Transportation Contractors Present: Jim Ainey, Ron Carlton, Jerry Legg, Cliff Taylor, Dawn Taylor, Dennis Bunnell, Janis Bunnell, Dave Darrow, Jim Grasafi, Ron Keifer, Glenna Tennant, Ruth Snedeker, James Conboy, Mary Potts and Donnie Potts.

Meeting commenced at 7:30 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 third installment of the additional transportation subsidy for 2008-2009 – all present indicated that they had received the third installment. Mr. Ognosky explained that there will be one more installment payment following the end of the school year.
- **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. The group also felt another meeting was required in order to finalize the plans for a fall assembly program in each building. The contractors present also felt that there was a need to include a bus orientation program for the incoming kindergarten students. This will be discussed at an upcoming meeting with the elementary principals and Mr. Ognosky. This meeting will be scheduled by Mr. Ognosky in the next few weeks.

New Business:

- **Discussion of the Bus Runs for 2009-2010:** Mr. Ognosky explained that over the past few weeks Mr. Clapper has been a passenger on a number of morning routes and is currently evaluating all of the routes for the 2009-2010 school year and believes that there are at least two routes that may be recommended to be discontinued. The population – especially in the Choconut Elementary School area – has declined noticeably in the past years and that is reflected in much lower bus student counts. Contractors have been notified of the potential for their route to be discontinued and meetings with the administration have been scheduled to discuss that possibility.
- **Discussion regarding Late Run Payments:** Mary Potts asked the board to consider an alternative method of paying the late run bus contracts. Currently, the formula utilized provides for payment based on the mileage on the late run in the “allowance for mileage” formula and

utilization of the number of students on the regular daily run in the “allowance for utilized passenger capacity miles” formula. With that in mind, two contractors running the same late run would receive unequal payments for carrying the same number of students, the same number of miles. For example, if Bus A travels 50 miles on the late run and carries 25 students on their daily run, and Bus B travels 50 miles on the late run and carries 50 students on their daily run, Bus B would receive almost twice the contract amount for what is, in essence, the same run. Mr. Clapper explained that the late run needs to be an add-on to their regular contract because you cannot get your vehicle allowance twice for state reimbursement and, therefore, the district would not receive any reimbursement from the state for the late runs, as it does now. It was then suggested that the district provide a supplement to the contractors in order to equalize the value of a late run. The elementary late runs were also discussed and the contractors requested that it continue as presently subsidized – a flat rate contract run a limited number of times per week and per year.

- **Discussion of Transportation Subsidy for 2009-2010:** Mr. Ognosky explained that currently the \$60,000 subsidy payment total is in the projected budget for 2009-2010 and will continue as implemented for 2008-2009. In response to a contractor’s question, there have been no current discussions regarding the extension of that subsidy beyond 2009-2010 – that will be a discussion for the next budget cycle. Mr. Ognosky also suggested that the contractors reach out to Senator Yaw in regard to their concern for a need for a change in the transportation subsidy formula at the state level. Mr. Ognosky explained that Mr. Caterson had joined him in meeting with Mr. Yaw in February and that was one point they emphasized with the Senator. Mr. Ognosky also mentioned that Senator Yaw’s family business was school transportation in the Montoursville Area School District outside of Williamsport.

Open Forum:

- Glenna Tennant suggested that in all of the discussion regarding the issuing of a transportation subsidy for the bus contractors that the car contractors have been left out of the discussion and they should also be considered. They have fuel costs, car wear costs, etc. as do the bus contractors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Mike Ognosky