

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MAINTENANCE BUILDING
MEETING DATE SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Doug Wilcox
Board Chairperson

Rickie Clapper
Administrative Representative

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

Administration Present: Rickie Clapper and Mike Ognosky

Transportation Drivers/Contractors Present: Joy Mower, Mark Mower, Frank Aldrich, Dawn Taylor, Linda Reynolds, Peggy Yeomans, Lynn Watson, Jim Eldred, Ron Burham, Donna Darrow, Cathy Aldrich, Dennis and Janis Bunnell, Donna and Joe Fizzano, Bev and Jerry Legg, Everitt Lowery, Judy Allen, Dave Darrow, Claude Bennett, Skip Hall, Frank Johnson, Jim Ainey, Leroy Stafford, Brenda Striley, Glenna Tennant, Chris Allis, Jane Conboy, Mike Strohl, Steve Groover, Vince Grisafi, Ron Carlton, Ron and LouAnn Kiefer, Rolland Cronk, Nick Grisafi, Tom Conaty, Sheryl Boyle, Ken Barnes, Ronald Reagen.

Also Present: Lucille Gesford (Transportation Office Secretary)

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM

Items Discussed:

Old Business:

- **Upgrade to Radios:** In response to a question from LouAnn Kiefer, the attendance sheet was passed around and contractors indicated bus numbers on which they would like to have the opportunity to have a private channel available on their buses. Mr. Clapper will contact the company and a representative will arrange for a date and time to install those channels. Mr. Clapper will inform those requesting such an upgrade of that time and date. Contractors who indicated a desire to have the upgrade to a private channel included: Joy Mower (97), Mark Mower (98), Judy Allen (26, 24), Dave Darrow (6,13), James Ainey (8, 19, 23, 55), Ron and Lou Ann Kiefer (14) and Tim Legg (by LouAnn in his absence) (Bus 31).

New Business:

- **Paperwork Available:** Mr. Clapper reviewed the paperwork that was available at the front of the room, including the payroll calendar and other pertinent materials.
- **Review of Procedures for all drivers:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the important procedures that are in place for all drivers of Montrose Area School District students, including:
 - ✓ **Non Smoking Policy:** There is to be no smoking in any vehicle contracted to transport students of the Montrose Area School District at any time while the students are present in the vehicle. Contractors are also asked to limit the amount of smoking at all other times in order to preserve an appropriate environment in their vehicle.
 - ✓ **Development of Contract Information for the Transportation Office:** As discussed at many prior meetings, drivers/contractors are reminded that the log that is presented to

the Transportation Office in the development of the annual contract shall be an accurate account of the trip that the vehicle takes every day. If your bus is not returning to the contractor's barn in the evening it must accurately report that. Transportation personnel may ride your bus at any stage of the year in order to ensure that your trip log is accurate. Please understand the importance of an accurate trip log to the District when making important transportation decisions – deviations will not be tolerated. It is ultimately the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that the information in the Transportation Office is an accurate reflection of the route.

- ✓ **Utilization of the Radios:** All drivers are reminded that the purpose of the radios is for communication with the district as it pertains to transportation issues. For example, the location of a student, at times of a bus accident, etc. Radios should not be used to communicate grocery lists, evening plans, etc. Remember your conversations are not private in most cases and there are radios in other buses, building offices, transportation offices, and administrative offices as well.
- ✓ **Truck Traffic:** During the summer the administration communicated the District concerns to Lopke Trucking regarding the amount and nature of the truck travel in our northern areas of the district. Our concerns were conveyed by their personnel to their drivers and, in turn, they asked that we remind all drivers to please utilize your amber and red lights when stopping in accordance with regulations. By doing so, you provide the trucks with ample warning as to when you are preparing to pick up or drop off a student. The company and the district share a common concern for the safety of our students.
- ✓ **Student Transfers:** Please remember to notify the Transportation Office immediately if a child is no longer riding your bus or has shown up as a new rider. All transfer moves from one transportation vehicle to another should come from the Transportation Office.

Open Forum:

- **Weather Days:** The contractors present requested that the decision to close or delay school be done in a timely fashion reminding the administration that many contractors/drivers are leaving their home as early as 5:30 a.m. to get to the storage barn, warm up the bus and prepare for the ride to school. They also asked that on evenings when an early dismissal is called that every attempt be made to make that decision as early as possible in the evening. Many drivers are "early to bed, early to rise" and a 10:30 call usually happens after they are asleep for the evening.
- **Late Starts/Delays:** A clarification was asked for regarding the transporting of Montrose Area School District students to off site schools on weather days. Mr. Ognosky explained that drivers in those situations need to be aware of both schools decisions. It is our wish that you don't transport a child on the regular schedule if either the Montrose Area School District or the receiving school has a weather related delay. Follow the schedule that is announced whether it be a one hour or two hour delay or an early dismissal by either school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Mike Ognosky