



**Transportation Issues Study Committee
The 175th Meeting
May 26, 2010**

Next Meeting: June 23, 2010 9:30a.m. -11:30p.m.
--

CC- 1 & 2, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Roseville, MN 55113

Present:

Keith Paulson, Anoka-Hennepin Schools
Kelly Wosika, MDE Program Finance/Transportation
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Schools
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools
Dave Peterson, St. Paul Schools
Cindy McKay, Spring Lake Park Schools
Lieutenant Ed Carroll, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS)
Brad Lundell, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Lobbyist

Summary: The summary of the April Transportation Issues meeting was approved with the clarification that B.J. Ison is with the Center for Efficient School Operations (CESO) not with White Bear Lake Schools.

Special Education Transportation Committee: At the last Special Education Transportation Committee meeting Kelly Wosika presented information on the student transportation state report.

The group discussed the possibility of having next year's meetings the same date and location as the School Bus Safety Committee to make it more convenient for people to attend both meetings.

Minnesota Department of Education: Kelly Wosika gave information on providers of Supplemental Education Services (SES) and whether they provide transportation or not.

The paper Pupil Transportation Annual Report form, Desegregation Transportation Report form, and the related instructions along with a district's individual school bus inventory listing were mailed out this week.

The transportation reports that are posted to the MARSS Web Edit System (WES) should be available after the next statewide MARSS edit.

Kelly explained what a charter school needs to do when it has nonresident special education students that require special education transportation and elects to have the district in which they are located provide the transportation. According to MDE policy, the charter school would be required to provide the special education transportation for the nonresident students. Kelly

suggested that the charter school be required to report the number of miles, hours and or routes of special education transportation. In addition, the charter school would be reported as the transporting district in the student's MARSS enrollment record. This would help to ensure that the special education transportation aid was calculated correctly.

Office of Student Transportation Safety:

It was reported that many student transportation providers in northern Minnesota are not in compliance with DPS school bus standards and requirements. The sergeant assigned to the northern area will be focusing on and issuing citations those providers that are not in compliance. DPS officers continue to take a look at districts that have a 10 percent or higher bus inspection failure rate.

DPS continues to inspect vehicles at special events like the Festival of Nations, hockey tournaments and proms. When a driver provides transportation for a fee, they must have motor carrier authority.

It was suggested that there should be more press releases from DPS on what parents should know about transportation safety when their children go to events like proms.

There were several good comments about Todd Kramasz presentation on the 511 Traveler Information Program at the last Office of Pupil Transportation Safety meeting. Todd works for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Legislative: Brad Lundell explained the school transportation policy items from the 2010 legislative session. Some of the highlights in the omnibus budget included a balancing bill that shifts aid payment and early recognition for school districts. School buses are exempt from having to use child restraint systems (booster seats) effective immediately. The definition of where students can be dropped off was widen to include certain after-school programs. Training programs for Type III drivers must include training for escorting students across the road. Pre-employment alcohol test for Type III drivers is dropped and use of breathalyzer is allowed for alcohol testing. DPS is instructed to develop rules governing the physical qualifications for bus drivers and Type III drivers. The education bill, which deals with: cost allocation; transportation expense of a field trip for special education students; school motor coach equipped with seat belts; and requiring school buses to be equipped with a crossing control arm did not pass legislation.

Dave Peterson would like the MDE Advisory Committee on Financial Management to accept the proposed policy change to allow transportation cost to be reported to MDE based upon actual costs when actual costs are more accurate than allocated costs and special education transportation costs are reasonable. The topic is scheduled to be on the committee's July 17, 2010, agenda.

Miscellaneous: Cindy McKay provided a list of the 2010 Minnesota Safety Poster Contest winners.

Keith Paulson presented an idea on a possible round table discussion that would be among the state school transportation professionals on pro-active thinking to increase efficiency. Some topics

