



**Transportation Issues Study Committee  
The 174th Meeting  
April 28, 2010**

**Next Meeting: May 26, 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  
Sergeant Duane Bartels, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
Sergeant Paul Davis, DPS  
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools  
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)  
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Schools  
Dave Peterson, St. Paul Schools  
Cindy McKay, Spring Lake Park Schools  
LaDonna Marlow, Lorenz Bus Service  
Linda Andert, Center for Efficient School Operations (CESO)  
B.J. Ison, CESO  
Duane Vornbrock, Salk Center Schools  
Amber Dallman, Minnesota Department of Health  
Jill Chamberlain, BlueCross & BlueShield of Minnesota  
Harry Kenerson, Osseo School

**Summary:** The summary of the March Transportation Issues meeting was approved.

**Special Education Transportation Committee:** At the last Special Education Transportation Committee Meeting Duane Borgeson, State Special Needs Director conducted a round table discussion and answered many questions on the topic of special education transportation.

The winners of the Special Education Driver and Assistant Award have been notified and plans have been made to present the awards to the first, second and third place winners at their corresponding school board meetings.

Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation is looking into having a section for Special Needs Transportation on their Website. There may be an opportunity to blog on the topic.

**Minnesota School Bus Safety Committee:** The School Bus Safety Committee met and judged the posters that were submitted for the Minnesota Poster Contest. There were 102 posters submitted. The theme for this year was Be Aware Know the Danger Zone. MSBOA helped supply the certificates to the winners.

**Minnesota Department of Education:** Kelly Wosika was not able get an answer to the question regarding what a district's transportation obligation is when Supplemental Education Services (SES) are provided by a SES provider. Kelly will look into this further and get back to the group. Information on SES can be found on the MDE Website at:  
[http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Academic\\_Excellence/School\\_Choice/Public\\_School\\_Choice/Supplemental\\_Education\\_Services/index.html](http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Academic_Excellence/School_Choice/Public_School_Choice/Supplemental_Education_Services/index.html)

Kelly Wosika explained the object codes that are used when reporting transportation costs.

It was mentioned that there is a grant opportunity for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education. The grant announcement is located on the MDE Website at the following address:  
<https://education.state.mn.us/EGMS/>. Click on All Open Grant Opportunities and locate COMPETITIVE – 868 – MCKINNEY VENTO ED/HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH.

**Office of Student Transportation Safety:** Sergeant Paul Davis announced that Ken Urquhart was promoted to Major and has been relocated to the Central Headquarters. He is currently being mentored by Major Al Smith.

The accident that caused a death of a student in the Pine River-Backus School District is still under the investigation by the Cass County Sheriff's Department.

The State Patrol has increased enforcements of persons who are not wearing seatbelts. They plan to especially increase efforts around school parking lots and locations where prom is being held.

There is a bill to exempt school buses from the requirement of Minnesota Statutes section 169.685. The bill provides, in part, that every motorized vehicle operator, when transporting a child who is both under the age of eight and shorter than four feet nine inches on the streets and highways of this state in a motor vehicle equipped with factory-installed seat belts, shall be equipped with a child passenger restraint system. The bill is successfully moving forward in legislation. The next step is for the governor to sign it.

The motor coach industry is moving proactively to include seat belts on their vehicles. Even though it is not in federal law, the motor coach industry is requesting new motor coaches to be equipped with seat belts as their customers are demanding it.

The next Pupil Transportation Stakeholders Meeting will be held at MDE on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. It will be located in Conference Center B, Room 15.

DPS Technical Sergeants are available for training and presentation to school bus drivers. If you are interested in having them present you should contact them soon because their calendars are

filling up quickly. [Their contact information is available on the DPS Website.](#) It was mentioned that these presentation are very informative and are well done.

DPS sergeants and officers continue to take a look at districts that have a 10 percent or higher bus inspection failure rate. They are doing random checks and looking into driver files. Some superintendents, transportation directors and contractors still are not complying with state laws. DPS will issue citations in order to get compliance.

Sergeant Bartles and Sergeant Davis explained the Federal Compliance Review process of select school bus carriers. The carriers are selected by the Federal Transit Administration. Officers are required to attend enforcement procedures classes in order to perform the review and issue fines. The review could be of a local or national based corporation. A carrier is on the list for a review because of noncompliance incidents and or reportable crashes.

**Legislative:** 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 employers that may use a breathalyzer or similar device to fulfill random or reasonable suspicion for alcohol testing requirements; is being heard in the House as the House K-12 Bill 2431.

A summary of the results from the National School Bus Standards Conference that is going to be held in May will be discussed at the MAPT and MASBOA summer conferences.

**Miscellaneous:** The majority of the meeting was taken up by a discussion led by Amber Dallman and Jill Chamberlain. They provided information on the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) specifically on the school interventions for physical activity and the Minnesota Safe Routes to School Network. Amber explained that the Department of Health (MDH) is going to be hiring a person to work on active living communities initiatives. The main objectives of the programs are to make lasting changes to improve active living and that making a healthy choice is an easy choice. Amber and Jill would like to work with school districts so that the districts adopt policies and practices to increase levels of physical activity especially in the area of safe walks to school. It was suggested that this could be a topic for the MAPT and MSBOA Joint Winter Conference in January 2011.

It was mentioned that Jan Vanderwall has been with Roseville Area Schools for 35 years. Denny Coughlin will be retiring from Minneapolis Schools.

**Future Meetings:** Future meeting dates are:

May 26, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
June 23, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
July 28, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Adjourn:** 11:30 a.m.