



**Transportation Issues Study Committee
The 173rd Meeting
March 24, 2010**

Next Meeting: April 25, 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)
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools
Rob Anderson, Minneapolis Schools
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Schools
Dave Peterson, St. Paul Schools
Cindy McKay, Spring Lake Park Schools
Linda Andert, Center for Efficient School Operations (CESO)
B.J. Ison, White Bear Lake Schools

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

Special Education Transportation Committee: At the last meeting, the Special Education Transportation Committee conducted the judging for the awards of the school bus drivers and transportation assistants serving Minnesota students with special needs. Movin'On Incorporation of Blaine contributed \$300.00 for the trophies and awards for the recipients.

Kerstin Forsythe from MDE Monitoring and Compliance Data Practices Division lead a discussion on private data.

Tom Meyer from St. Paul Schools is developing a Facebook page for discussing issues surrounding transportation students with special needs. If you are interested in joining, contact Tom at tom.meyer@spps.org.

Minnesota Department of Education: Kelly Wosika said that transportation of a student to be evaluated for IEP services is not allowable under Finance Dimension 723, Special Education Transportation. A district should report the cost under Finance Dimension 733 or use federal funds, if available.

Kelly Wosika explained the reporting of the transportation costs of a federal program and how a district should code the expenditures in order to get reimbursement in the State Educational Record View and Submission (SERVS) system. It was mentioned that a clarification of the object codes is needed.

There was a discussion about what a district's transportation obligation is when Supplemental Education Services (SES) are provided by a SES provider. Kelly will look into this 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

Office of Student Transportation Safety: DPS sergeants and officers reviewed the circumstance in the recent accident that caused a death of a student in the Pine River-Backus School District. Once the DPS report is finalized, it will be sent to the Cass County Sherriff's Department.

Rob Anderson asked Sergeant Duane Bartels if it would be acceptable for an evaluator to fail the driver if the evaluator felt that the driver's skill level was inadequate. The driver would then be trained and reevaluated. Sergeant Bartels said that would be okay.

Jan Vanderwall said that the 2008-2009 Fatality Report from the National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey is available. He said that it provides some good lessons.

Sergeant Bartels said that DPS is trying to spread out bus inspections throughout the year so that a better evaluation of the school busing system can be done.

There was some discussion of cameras mounted in the mid-ship area of a school bus. Sergeant Bartels will bring the issue to the National Council on School Bus Standards in May. A serious look into the topic will be needed if the council finds it to be an issue. Rules may need to be created in order for the cameras to be mounted in the passenger area. It is not an issue for cameras to be mounted in the driver area.

Sergeant Bartels reminded the group that DVD players cannot be mounted in the interior of buses. He heard that some districts are considering using DVDs in lieu of paras on the bus.

Legislative: The Type III bill is being discussed in legislation today. The booster seat bill is on the floor in both the House and the Senate.

The issue of the use of seatbelts on school buses is not making any progress.

The education bill, which deals with cost allocation and transportation expense of a field trip for special education students, has not gotten a Senate hearing.

Miscellaneous:

It was suggested that there should be a discussion at the Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Summer Conference about how to get the key players who are involved in the legislation process together. This would help in developing an understanding of what issues are important to other groups.

Dave Peterson will be monitoring a session at the Minnesota Association of School Business Operators (MASBO) Spring Conference. Kelly Wosika of MDE and Denny Coughlin of Minneapolis Schools along with a representative from the Navistar Financial will be presenting on school bus purchases.

Members of the School Board Association were reminded that they should be aware of the responsibilities of school bus drivers. They appear sometimes to be unaware of all the requirements that drivers need to have.

There was a discussion of a district's responsibilities when a driver is suspected of driving under the influence. The discussion included what steps should be taken and what are the best practices surrounding this type of situation.

The School Bus Rodeo registrations forms are available. The Road-ee will be held Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. If you have questions, contact Sherrie Case at 612-869-5639 or e-mail runningfreenow@yahoo.com.

Future Meetings: Future meeting dates are:

March 24, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
April 28, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
May 26, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Adjourn: 11:15 a.m.