



**Transportation Issues Study Committee
The 172nd Meeting
February 23, 2010**

Next Meeting: March 24, 2010 9:30 a.m. -11:30 p.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
Lieutenant Ed Carroll, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS)
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools
Rob Anderson, Minneapolis Schools
Denny Coughlin, Minneapolis Schools
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Schools
Matt Toburen, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 284

Summary: The summary of the January Transportation Issues meeting was approved with the change to the paragraph that starts with David Peterson asked if there could be a discussion of Head Start drivers and their training at the next Stakeholders Meeting." David also mentioned a legislative initiative on cost savings to allow medical practitioners and other medical personnel to be included in the data base as permissible persons to perform driver physicals rather than have only medical doctors who come at a higher cost for school districts." This should be struck out and replaced with "David also mentioned that he believes school districts and bus contractors would generally prefer to continue to allow all medical examiners to perform driver physicals (instead of a proposed limitation to only doctors). In addition, David believes that school districts and bus contractors would generally oppose a recommendation that only medical examiners on file within a government data base be allowed to perform physicals."

Special Education Transportation Committee: There was a discussion at the last Special Education Transportation Committee Meeting regarding when transportation should be written in to the IEP. The meeting was held at Adam Services in St. Louis Park. Kelly will look into on how a district should report transportation cost when transportation is provided for a student while he/she is being evaluated for special education services.

Minnesota Department of Education: Kelly Wosika said that 08-09 school year transportation statistics are available and will be posted to the MDE Website.

Kelly is working on the necessary changes to allow transportation costs of a federal program and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to be reported through the State Educational Record View and Submission System (SERVS). This would allow districts to report the transportation expenditures of a program and get reimbursement.

There was a discussion about the fact that some parents surrender their bus riding privileges and that some charter schools have been abusing this by not providing transportation at all. There are issues surrounding this including that enrollment may be limited through a process of selection based on whether the parents can provide transportation or not.

Kelly presented a letter from the Minnesota Department of Human Services about special transportation cost and the rates, billing and document changes associated with the rate change. Basically the rate was changed from a mileage reimbursement rate to a cost based rate unique to each district.

Under provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, a school district with a school identified as needing improvement for three consecutive years is required to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES). SES provides additional academic instruction, such as tutoring, to increase student achievement to eligible students attending the school. When the SES provider is providing transportation to students, it must comply with Minnesota and federal guidelines, including the use of a vehicle that conforms to Minnesota school bus standards, specifically Type III vehicles. The driver of such a vehicle will comply with the licensure for the classification of vehicle being driven.

Office of Student Transportation Safety: The next Stakeholders Meeting will be March 1, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at MDE, Conference Center A Room 13. There will be a discussion regarding private data. Lieutenant Ed Carroll explained that districts have concerns about private data specifically how it is defined and how to safeguard it. DPS asked data practices specialist, Peter Ivy, Assistant Carver County Attorney to provide information on the Data Practices Law at the next Stakeholders Meeting.

Lieutenant Carroll mentioned that the Stakeholders Group has some members that are not attending the meetings. He would like to get new members to the group more involved.

DPS sergeants and officers are taking 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. It is DPS's goal to inspect each carrier once each year.

Legislative: The booster seat bill was introduced again. Brad Lundell and Randy Dukek met with Senator Carlson regarding the booster seat exemption on school buses.

The issue with having seatbelts on school buses is funding. Most transportation directors are accepting of having seatbelts on the bus but they would need specific funding. This issue does not look like it is moving forward in legislation.

There was discussion of the bill that allows districts to directly report bus service contract cost to a finance category under certain conditions.

There was also discussion on charging nonpublic schools and charter schools for the additional cost of transportation not provided as aid from MDE. The challenge would be how districts would determine the excess cost.

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: 11:10 a.m.