



**Transportation Issues Study Committee  
The 170th Meeting  
November 25, 2009**

**Next Meeting: January 27, 2010 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.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)  
Dave Peterson, St. Paul Schools  
Lori Jonason, Minnetonka Schools  
Brad Lundell, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Lobbyist  
Harry Kenerson, Osseo Schools  
John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools  
Rob Anderson, Minneapolis Schools  
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Schools  
B.J. Ison, White Bear Lake Schools  
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)  
Rich Enga, St. Francis Schools  
Derrick Agate, Eden Prairie Schools  
Linda Andert, Center for Efficient School Operations (CESO)

**Summary:** The summary of the October Transportation Issues meeting was approved with the correction that Matt Regan from American Transportation was in attendance not Randy Rogers from First Student.

**Special Education Transportation Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Care and Treatment Workgroup:** The next couple of meetings of the care and treatment workgroup are scheduled for December 1, 2009, and December 17, 2009. The key issue for the group is to legislate for care and treatment programs so children with mental illness are provided access to services and education opportunities and to achieve this without any unfunded mandates. Once the group comes up with a final draft of the legislation they will bring it back to the issues committee for comments.

**Minnesota Department of Education:** Kelly explained that when a school within their district is not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), students may choose to attend a higher performing school in the district with transportation provided. Title I funds are available for the

additional cost of transportation. Twenty percent of the Title I funds should be set aside for this purpose. Of the 20 percent, five percent is for Choice which includes transportation and five percent is for Supplemental Education Services (SES) which includes instructional expenditures, for example, tutoring. After that, the remaining 10 percent can be used for a combination of either Choice or SES. A transportation director should contact the business manager at the district for the actual amount that can be used for transportation. Sara Kay Smith, State Program Administrator Senior, MDE can also be contacted for further information at 651-582-8629.

How the transportation is provided is determined by the district. The district may set up a central drop-off point or reroute existing routes in order to provide the transportation.

Some members of the group felt that there was not enough time for districts to provide the AYP transportation service because it is not known until August whether a school has made AYP or not. By August, many school districts have already established their routing schedules. It is hard to accommodate for last minute bussing changes.

As a follow-up to the discussion on the Safe at Home Program from last months Issues Committee meeting, Kelly said that if a family chooses to remain in the district directory the address in the directory is considered public information. The district may use the address in the process to providing student transportation. A family may opt out of the district directory; however, if they opt out of the directory and request transportation services, the district may request address information in order to provide the services. This may lead to their address being distributed openly within the district to bus drivers and safety coordinators even though it is considered private data.

The staff at the Secretary of State's Office, Safe at Home Program, will be facilitating the transfer of records when a family in the program enrolls into a new school district. The reporting of MARSS data to MDE doesn't require the identification of the district into which the student moved. It does, however, require a last location code, but the code doesn't specify the student's new location. The old district would put in St. Paul and the Box number used by the Safe at home Program. The old district will have to send the student's records to the Secretary of State .

The entry forms for the annual Minnesota School Bus Safety Poster contest are available. Questions about the contest should be directed to Cindy McKay, Spring Lake Park Schools Transportation at 763-785-5512 or e-mail [cmckay@isd16.org](mailto:cmckay@isd16.org).

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Education, School Safety Center is having its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Minnesota School Safety Conference. It is scheduled for February 24-25, 2010, at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Plymouth, Minnesota. Registration can be completed on the [Registration can be completed on the Minnesota Association of School Administrator's Website](#).

There was a discussion of some of the issues an independent school district is having with a charter school located within the district. The charter school chose to have the district provide the transportation. The district is having problems with the charter school not following through with discipline matters, special education transportation and Epi-pen procedures among other things. There were several suggestions from the group on how to resolve the issues. Kelly will follow up with the district on the suggested resolutions.

**Office of Student Transportation Safety:** Lieutenant Ed Carroll (Eddie) gave details regarding a few crashes that happened recently. He also mentioned that there will be a new sergeant for the southern regional area starting soon replacing Sergeant Ebner.

Lieutenant Ed Carroll said that Sergeant Duane Bartles found some very serious findings during a carrier review with a private carrier regarding drivers licensing. A carrier review looks at files for a motor carrier and school bus carriers and goes in depth in the driver files and drug and alcohol testing procedures.

There was a discussion of changing the current point inspection system to a pass/fail system. The pass/fail system is used as a national model for school bus inspections. Having a pass/fail system may clean up a lot of complaints that districts and contractors have about the current system. It was suggested that this be a topic at the MAPT/MSBOA Joint Winter Conference in January.

There was a discussion about the differences between an annual inspection versus an on-the-road inspection.

There was some discussion on video camera mountings in the student compartment on the buses and how Minnesota state laws differ from the national standards. DPS has expressed some safety concerns when a camera is located in the walk aisle of a school bus. The current wording in Minnesota statues does not allow for any objects to project from the walls of the bus. This is another topic that will be discussed at the joint conference.

### **Legislative:**

Brad Lundell said that there is an expected one-half billion to one billion dollar shortfall in the state and does not see a lot of legislative issues in regards to funding moving forward this year.

Dave Peterson presented a legislative issues discussion list. There was a lot of discussion on the various topics presented which included, but was not limited to, interim physical requirements, post trip inspections, reporting actual costs instead of cost allocation, Type III pre-employment alcohol testing and breath analyzer test, ALC transportation, school bus operator physicals, clarifications in DPS laws, and Minnesota Association of School Business Officials legislative initiatives.

**Miscellaneous:** There was a discussion of video data and privacy matters related to it. The group discussed whether or not information from cameras is considered private data. The situation discussed involved a copy of the video tapes of a bus that was in an accident that was sensationalized by the media.

Jan Vanderwall will be conducting a survey of school districts to get information on contracted bus services.

Keith Paulson presented a document titled Executive Summary by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which concluded that it is unlikely that children will assume that because they do not have to wear seat belts in school buses they do not have to wear seat belts in cars.

John Thomas distributed the MAPT/MSBOA Joint Winter Conference registration form and agenda. The conference is scheduled for January 8-9, 2010, in Mankato, Minnesota.

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

January 27, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
February 24, 2010	Education Conference Ctr A., Rooms 1 & 2, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Adjourn:** 11:40 a.m.