

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 57
Office of the Superintendent
Waterboro, Maine 04087

Transportation/Security Committee Meeting

October 26, 2021

6:00 PM

Massabesic High School East Building

Committee Members:

JoJo Dryden
Katie Mastraccio

Judith Vasalle
Amber Pombriant

Jennifer Mayo
Dominic Vermette

Administrators:

Mark Fisher
Cindy Pellerin
Dr. Stephen Marquis

Ted Doyle
Colin Walsh

Scott Lavertu
Larry Malone

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum
- C. Election of Transportation Committee Chairperson
- D. Adjustments to the Agenda
- E. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2021
- E. Budget Update
- F. Old Business
- G. New Business:
 - a. Transportation Update
 - b. To discuss a route variance pursuant to MRSA § 405(6)(F)
 - c. To discuss security material and resource availability pursuant to MRSA § 405(6)(F)
- H. Next Meeting Date
- I. Adjournment

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 57
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Waterboro, Maine 04087

Transportation/Security Committee Minutes
September 28, 2021

Massabesic High School East Building

Committee Members Present:

Judith Vasalle
Jennifer Mayo

Katie Mastraccio
Dominic Vermette

JoJo Dryden

Others Present:

Ted Doyle
Cindy Pellerin
Stephen Marquis

Scott Lavertu
Larry Malone

Mark Fisher
Colin Walsh

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

A quorum was established with 5 members present.

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

Mr. Walsh asked for an adjustment to the agenda – add the agenda item “Budget Update” after the approval of minutes from May 25, 2021. The Transportation Committee members unanimously agreed on this adjustment to the agenda.

D. Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2021

Mr. Vermette made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mastraccio. The minutes were approved as presented (Ms. Vasalle abstained).

E. Budget Update

Mr. Walsh provided a review of the fiscal 2020-2021 financial report for transportation. He noted this is the final report for last fiscal year and expenditures were well controlled and managed for the year. Salaries were in line with budget expectations and benefits were under budget. In addition, parts, repairs and fuel costs were under budget projections with most other categories remaining in line with the budget. He reminded Committee members that the transportation costs are Article 8 in the annual budget and cost center articles that the voters approve each year and therefore it is important for the Committee to be updated on how these funds are being managed throughout the fiscal year.

Mr. Walsh also noted that electric buses are being discussed a lot throughout the country and federal incentives are available for some electric buses. He said that the District researches this every year or two and so far these vehicles cannot meet the District's needs. The reason for this is due to our terrain and distance our buses travel combined with the specific miles the bus can travel on a single charge. The Finance Director noted he will continue to work with the Transportation Director to periodically review different bus types and see what improvements happen over the years.

Mr. Walsh also said that Ms. Mayo had communicated since there were some new Committee members the election of the Transportation Committee Chairperson would occur at the meeting on October 26, 2021.

F. Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

G. New Business

a) Transportation Update

Transportation Director, Mr. Ted Doyle, provided an update on a variety of topics as follows:

- Mr. Doyle provided an update on the condition of the transportation fleet. He said that four new buses were coming and should be here soon. These four buses are replacing four older buses that need to be replaced due to age, mileage and vehicle condition. Bus #1774 is out for repair due to a DEF sensor. Two vans are currently out due to an engine issue and also a transmission issue. These vans are being evaluated to determine the best repair options that are available. Bus #2212 is at Moody's in Bangor being evaluated as it had significant body damage. We are anticipating that the cost will be between \$20,000 and \$30,000. This is covered under the District's insurance policy.
- The Transportation Director discussed a number of buses and vans which were recently disposed of. Mr. Walsh indicated that these are publically advertised and put out to bid and are disposed of in accordance with School Board policy.
- Mr. Doyle noted that staff are doing various co-curricular and athletic bus runs. In addition, there are five activity buses running Monday through Thursday each week.
- The Transportation Director provided an update on current staffing. The District is searching for a full time mechanic but has not been able to hire one to date. The two retired mechanics are coming in on a part time basis to help out until a permanent replacement is hired.
- Staffing is very tight right now for all transportation positions. Daily runs are being covered but there is extremely minimal substitute staff if drivers need days off, have medical appointments, medical procedures or have to quarantine due to Covid. Mr. Doyle has ads placed all the time in multiple locations but only a few applications have been received so far. This is not an issue with just RSU #57 as many districts have much more significant staffing concerns than our district. The Transportation Director noted that he is waiting to hear from the Maine DOE on whether the District could engage the National Guard if the need arises.
- Mr. Doyle communicated with Committee members about an increase in negative student behaviors on various buses this year. He noted in the first week of school bus drivers review bus guidelines, mask wearing and safety protocols with students so

that expectations and rules are clearly established. The Transportation Director will continue to work with administrators to help ensure that students are safely transported and adverse behaviors are addressed.

H. Executive Session

Ms. Dryden made a motion to go into executive session to discuss security material and resource availability pursuant to MRSA § 405(6)(F). Mr. Vermette seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously voted to go into executive session at 6:35pm.

The Committee members voted to come out of executive session at 7:04 pm.

I. Next Meeting Date

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on October 26, 2021 in the Massabesic High School East Building.

J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.