

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

Transportation/Security Committee Minutes
March 22, 2022

Massabesic High School East Building

Committee Members Present:

Judith Vasalle	Katie Mastraccio	Dominic Vermette
Jennifer Mayo	JoJo Dryden	

Others Present:

Ted Doyle	Mark Fisher
Colin Walsh	Stephen Marquis

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

A quorum was established with 4 members present (Mr. Vermette was present but could not vote as he was not yet sworn in by the municipal clerk)

C. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

D. Approval of Minutes from December 20, 2021

Ms. Dryden made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mastraccio. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

E. Old Business

There was no old business to be discussed.

F. Budget Update

Mr. Walsh provided an update on the Transportation Department budget. He noted that although substitute driver salaries are over budget that salaries and benefits for the entire department will be under budget for the fiscal year. The Finance Director said that repair costs and fuel costs are currently tracking in line with the budget. He does anticipate that subcontracted services will be over budget for the fiscal year due to the shortage of drivers. Overall, Mr. Walsh noted that the budget is doing well and he does not have any concerns at this time.

G. **New Business**

a) **Transportation Update**

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

- Mr. Doyle reported that the RSU has applied to the state for subsidy on three 77 passenger buses and one handicap accessible bus for fiscal 2022-2023. He noted that the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) has only approved the handicap accessible bus as available for state funding.
- The Transportation Director said that six buses that have been recently purchased have an issue with the wheel wells. This is being corrected and is covered under the manufacturer's warranty.
- Mr. Doyle informed the Committee members about an accident that occurred on March 3, 2022. One of the District's vans was in a serious single vehicle accident with the driver and one child on board. Fortunately, no serious injuries occurred in the accident.
- The Transportation Director discussed the frequent shut down of routes and that this is necessary due to the lack of spare drivers. He explained the steps the District has taken and continues to take in order to attract qualified licensed bus drivers. He said that with what few spare drivers he has working they fill routes on a very regular basis.
- Mr. Doyle informed the Committee that the Transportation Department is currently able to handle such things as athletics, co-curricula activities, end of day activity buses and project graduation. He said that the department will try to accommodate as many field trips as possible but there will be limitations on the length of the trip and time of day the field trips can occur.
- He was very excited to report that the RSU was able to hire a new mechanic. He noted that the current mechanic he expects will retire in the fall so the District is still in need for this valuable position.
- Mr. Doyle reported that he has advertisements continually running for bus drivers, van drivers and a mechanic.
- The Transportation Director talked about the new federal requirement for training bus drivers. The "Entry Level Driver Training Program" started in early February and puts further restrictions on new potential drivers. This training requires classroom instruction, under the hood training and road training. Mr. Doyle is working with Mr. Walsh and Mr. Goad to develop a course which would meet these requirements in an effort to attract new drivers.
- The new Tyler Drive Tablets are being installed in nine buses and training will occur on March 31st, April 1st and driver training on April 12th. These devices will be a trial run to see how they work before making a decision whether to expand to the entire fleet.
- Mr. Doyle discussed a federal grant program to encourage school districts to purchase electric or low emission school buses. He noted that electric buses cost approximately \$450,000-\$500,000 and the batteries last approximately ten years. The District will continue to get more information on these buses as well as the grant programs and bring it back to the Committee at a future meeting.
- Mr. Doyle announced that he intends to retire at the end of this school year and his anticipated last day will be June 24th.

b) Executive Session to Discuss Security Material and Resource Availability pursuant to MRSA § 405 (6)(F)

Ms. Dryden made a motion to go into executive session to discuss security material and resource availability pursuant to MRSA § 405(6)(F). Ms. Mastraccio seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously voted to go into executive session at 6:43 pm.

The Committee members voted to come out of executive session at 7:35 pm and no actions were taken.

H. Next Meeting Date

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on April 26, 2022 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Massabesic High School East Building.

I. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.