

July 2016 Transportation Report

I want to thank the board for their support and allowing me to report to you in person each month on transportation issues.

The finance application to Cat has been approved. Bus 28 was taken to Foley Tractor and they have started working on the bus.

Most of the brake parts ordered from Midwest Transit have arrived and the brake repairs on the buses with ABS issues have begun using the new rotors with the nickel ABS exciter ring. Nearly all of the other bus and non-bus repairs are complete, except for the ABS issues on the buses. Those have been scheduled to be done before August 8.

The front end alignment on Bus 1 will be completed before I go on vacation. Also, nearly all of the tire changes needed should be done by then, as well.

We have continued the process of controlling rust issues on the buses. We have been paying particular attention to service door and rear exit door lubrication that was stated during the 2014-2015 school year.

I took the ¾ ton pick-up (#23) to Import to have him look at it for the state inspection. After he inspected it, the decision was made to repair the front end parts to restore good drivability. It has good tires on it. We had to repair an oil leak and a broken dip stick tube this last school year so it could be used to haul a trailer for the state fair FFA trip. After a road test and a trip with it to Kansas City to get a large parts order, I think that we can use the truck for one more year safely. This should help some with the district's budget for 2016-2017. The cost of both repairs was about \$1,500.

I attended a seminar in Kansas City on the Cummins DEF systems and found out that Cummins has changed its service intervals for "severe service" conditions on the DEF filters, because of pump failures. For severe service they are now recommending the filter be changed every 50,000 to 75,000 miles instead of every 200,000 miles. The speaker defined severe service vehicles as vehicles that do a lot of stop and go work or drive a lot of dirt roads, such as trash trucks, short term delivery vehicles and school buses. The two buses we had pump failures on recently (#17 & #20) have over 85,000 miles on them. So we are changing that service interval to the 50,000 mile standard. We have three buses at or over that mileage currently. The DEF filters for those buses are on order.

When I was at the seminar, I saw a demonstration of a fairly new product to repair bus seats. The completed repair is as strong as the original seat cover and does not leave any rough edges that a student can use to reopen the tear. We are ordering a kit, because it should greatly reduce the cost of bus seat repairs for the upcoming school year. The repair kit costs \$78 and lasts about a year. One seat cover is nearly \$40.

The state police office in Salina has confirmed an inspection date of August 8 for all the Transportation vehicles.

All of the updates for the Transportation Driver Manual which reflect state and local regulation changes have been completed. They will be given to the Transportation folks at their back to school meeting.

Konnie Evans has set the date for the First Aid/CPR class on August 2 for those that need that class. The Driver Safety class has been scheduled for August 5 in Manhattan for those that need that class.

I will be doing a presentation to the school staff at their back to school meeting to explain the recent state regulation concerning pre-trips on non-bus vehicles for the benefit of the new folks and as a reminder for the returning staff. I will also remind those who drive buses of the mileage notification requirements for trips they drive. Last of all, I will be reminding staff members of the process necessary for reserving a vehicle for a school sponsored trip.

I will be gone on vacation the week of July 18. Garry Goff will be able to contact me in the event he needs additional parts or has a question. He will be finishing any repairs that we are doing ourselves, as well as transporting vehicles to and from scheduled repairs. I should also have an updated Transportation budget to Cliff Williams before I go on vacation.