

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 29, 2019 5:30 PM

Superintendent's Office

Members Present: Jason Scholten, Mark Hansen, Kenneth Kealiher, Josh Kezer

Members Absent: Paul Carter, Mark Guzzi, Ken Sands, Paul Carter

Others Present: Mike Hammer, Dean Cray, Joe Chadbourne, Larry Novak

I. Public Comment

None

II. Review of the Start of the School Year and III. Update of Bus Routes

The start of the year has had a few hiccups; however, almost all of the runs have changed in some way due to the new configuration of schools. We have had a lot of bus repairs and that shows on the monthly financial statements. We will be having a new set of changes when the new Nokomis High is in session, this will have minimal impact on run start and end times. Dismissal from inside the buses on the middle level will be the same, we will need to see how the high school students will go. We do have the Newport and Corinna buses load last and they stage to arrive later.

We have had a lot of buses rusting out and that will be part of another agenda item. The Maine State Police inspection team is seeing this around the state. We had a few buses taken out of service in our inspection. We do have a few buses with the recall on the seats.

IV. Bus Fleet Condition and Replacement Plans

Joe, Dean and Mike presented an option to purchase buses through the Voltswagen rebate program. With this program, school districts can submit for approval at 20% to 30% of the cost of a bus and Voltswagen picks up the remaining amount of the pricetag. This would give us a boost for a couple of buses at a remarkably low amount. We will bring this financing option to the Finance Committee as well. Our fleet is aging quickly due to the rust and corrosion seen lately and our large number of buses to be placed on a replacement cycle. We travel 2,400 miles a day and around 420,000 miles a year in our fleet. This does not include special service, van runs, or private driver mileage.

- V. Other** - Larry Novak has been working on bus safety during early release time and other internal bus rodeos. We will work to get EZpass for our buses that travel on toll trips and we discussed fueling up procedures through our contract with AE Robinson.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hammer
Superintendent of Schools