

Transportation Issues Study Committee The 181st Meeting July 27, 2011

Next Meeting: September 28, 2011, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. CC- 1 and 2, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Present:

Derrick Agate Sr., Hopkins Schools
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Area Schools
Kelly Wosika, MDE Program Finance/Transportation
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)
Lieutenant Ed Carroll, Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), Minnesota State Patrol (MSP)

Keith Paulson, Anoka-Hennepin School District David Peterson, St. Paul Schools

Brad Lundell, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Lobbyist

Special Education Transportation and School Bus Safety Committees: Kala Henkensiefken is working on setting up a presentation to the Special Education Directors at one of the Special Education Forums which will be held at MDE.

The Special Education Transportation and School Bus Safety Committees will be meeting at the same locations on the same dates during the year.

It was mentioned that Intermediate School District 917 could do a better job of coordinating student transportation.

Office of Student Transportation Safety: Lieutenant Ed Carroll said that the Office of Student Transportation Safety is busy catching up on school bus inspections. They got behind because of the state shut down. School bus inspectors were laid off. Sergeants were rolled into the various regions to help with critical public safety matters. No random bus inspections are being done at this time.

Due to the state shutdown DPS was not able to attend the Train the Trainer Sessions.

Lieutenant Ed Carroll explained that day care providers want to provide student transportation and be regulated as such. The Lieutenant does not feel that the day care providers have a good understanding of what is all involved in student transportation.

Legislative: Brad explained the items that passed during the 2011 legislative session that pertain to student transportation.

- SF939 / HF1179 Chapter 103. Laws of Minnesota, 2011
 - i) Non-regular transportation citation in Minnesota Statutes 123B.88 was struck.
 - ii) Model training program in Minnesota Statutes 123B.90 requirements for MDE changed from "develop" to "develop and maintain" as it relates to student safety instructional materials.
 - iii) Field trip transportation with lift bus can be classified as special education transportation.
- Omnibus Education bill HF 26 Chapter 11, Laws of Minnesota, 2011, First Special Session
 - i) Definition of regular transportation expanded for newly-authorized full-service school zones.
 - ii) Resident school district is responsible for transportation of students who are placed in Minnesota State Academies on a trial basis (and beyond if child chooses to continue to the academies).
 - iii) Cost-allocation process is amended in Minnesota Statutes 123B.92 to allow for a more consistent method to measure transportation provided by the schools and provides an exemption from the standard cost allocation method for districts that contract for transportation services when certain criteria are met.
 - iv) Repeal of Integration Revenue as currently defined under MN 124D.86 (program) and Minnesota Statutes 124D.87 (transportation effective for the 2013-2014 school year. A task force will convene this fall to re-design the state integration program. That task force will discuss new transportation responsibilities and funding.

Items that did not become law included:

- Items for Regular Session Transportation Policy Bill
 - i) Requirement that all new school buses purchased for use in Minnesota after January 1, 2012, have a crossing gate as part of stop-arm system.
 - ii) Requirement that all buses under 10,000 pounds use booster seats for children who are required to use them in other passenger vehicles.
- Items that did not survive in Regular Session
 - i) The vehicle standard contained in the 2010 national standards, including clarifying language on video camera placement, and placement of auxiliary fans.

Lieutenant Ed Carroll mentioned that there will be a memo of understanding regarding the tailpipe placement issue. Since the vehicle standards bill did not pass there is a conflict in the law in regards to school bus inspections.

Next legislative session starts the last week of January 2012. The sessions usually go until the end of April.

Minnesota Department of Education: The Pupil Transportation Annual Report and the Transportation to Integration and Desegregation Schools or Programs Report are due August 15, 2011.

There are six charter schools that will be opening this fall. Seven charter schools have closed this year. Kelly reminded the group to be aware of charter schools that are physically located within their districts. The report, Charter Schools 'Located in District' is available on the MDE website to help identify which charter schools are located within a district.

Kelly mentioned that the UFARS Manual Chapter 13 and the Financial Accounting for Student Transportation Services Manual will have to be revised due to legislative changes.

Miscellaneous: Representatives from MSBOA and MAPT presented a request to the Special Master to continued funding for DPS to test, license and conduct background checks on school-bus drivers. It was determined that maintenance of public safety was deemed a critical core function that should remain funded during the government shutdown.

Jan said the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) National Conference will be held in the City of Minneapolis. The conference will take place August 16-18, 2011. Jan will be speaking at one of the sessions. The conference is being hosted by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Future Meetings:

The next Transportation Issues Study Committee will be a combined meeting with DPS, Office of Pupil Transportation Safety Stakeholders Meeting at the Minnesota State Patrol Office, Commercial Vehicle Section, 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 420, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 on Monday, September 26, 2011, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 11:10 a.m.