



Transportation Issues Study Committee The 186th Meeting

April 25, 2012

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 23, 2012, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Conference Center A, Room 3 & 4, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Present:

John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools
Derrick Agate Sr., Hopkins Schools
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA)
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Area Schools
Linda Andert, Lorenz Bus
Kelly Wosika, MDE School Finance/Transportation
Sargent Duane Bartles, Department of Public Safety
Brad Lundell, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Lobbyist
Keith Paulson, Anoka Hennepin Schools
Cindy McKay, Voigt's Bus Service
Mark Hagner, International Bus
David Peterson, St. Paul Schools
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Apple Valley Egan Schools
Denney Caughlin, School Bus Training

Summary: The summary of the March Transportation Issues meeting was approved.

Special Education Transportation: There was a discussion about MDE monitoring and compliance audits. There will be a representative from MDE's Monitoring and Compliance Division to answer questions about the audit process at the next meeting which will be in Pine City on May 16, 2012.

[An updated version of the Reference Guide to Transporting Special Education and Special Students in Minnesota has been posted to the MDE website.](#)

International CE Buses Stalling Out – National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) Action: Mark Hagner provided information about International CE buses that have been stalling out. There have been no accidents or injuries reported because of this. But in at least three cases, high-pressure oil lines that connect the oil pump to the fuel injectors allegedly failed on International CE-brand buses. The cause has not been identified. There have not been any recalls. International bus vendors are willing to inspect and replace the hose if needed.

Office of Student Transportation Safety: Sargent Duane Bartles said that Fox 9 News is doing a segment on distracted driving around school buses, especially at rail road crossings.

Legislation bills for 2012 in regards to school bus safety are complete.

Marshall Public Schools is going to initiate an eye scan program to keep track of which students are on the bus.

Minnesota Department of Education: The resource documents that are available on the MDE website are being updated due to accessibility reasons and to include the new MDE logo. To keep up to date, subscribe to the website page, that way you will be notified through e-mail when a page has been updated.

[The Green Ribbon School winners have been announced.](#)

There was a discussion about updating the school bus transaction forms and eliminating obsolete items.

Kelly Wosika showed the group the new [Revenue and Expenditure spreadsheet](#) that is available on the MDE website. It was mentioned that the fields giving the total statewide amount should have a titles.

Legislation: Brad Lundell explained what has been happening during the legislative session. The requirement of a crossing gate and the language on the national school bus standards has passed. The drug testing requirements of Type III drivers is still in discussion. The care and treatment bill which is still in discussion, will inject change into the care and treatment programs. Parents will have more rights and choices for care and treatment and more funding will be available.

The education bill has passed. It cleaned up transportation responsibilities regarding students that are experiencing homelessness. The cost allocation initiative did not get picked up in the bill. Bemidji School district did not receive an additional appropriation for transportation.

There was a discussion about including the word agent as an authorized person to operate a Type III vehicle into Minnesota Statutes, section 171.02 subdivision 2b. Senator Howe has indicated that he would like to amend the bill so that volunteer drivers may provide transportation in their own vehicles. There was a discussion on the required training and insurance requirements for Type III drivers if this were to happen. It was mentioned that it would be better if the group developed an industry response instead of creating barriers to the idea.

Miscellaneous: There was a discussion about the responsibility of homeless transportation and that the expense has risen dramatically. The McKinney Federal Law provides that the district of origin must provide transportation so that the student's education is not disrupted while the family experiences hard economic times. The district's homeless liaison would be the person to determine if transportation should be provided. These decisions are based on a case by case basis. A district cannot form a policy which limits homeless transportation.

Minneapolis Schools plan on issuing metro transit bus passes to their high school students. The idea is to provide flexibility for students who wish to participate in after school activities. It was mentioned that the marginal cost for a yellow bus is not substantial and may be less than the administrative cost of issuing bus passes. There is also the concern of metro transit adding more routes due to the volume of users.

Future Meetings: Wednesday, May 23, 2012, MDE Conference Center A, Room 3 & 4, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Adjourn: 11:40 a.m.