## Minnesota Department of Education

Arlen Hviding, Spring Lake Park Schools

## **Transportation Issues Study Committee**

## **April 16, 2013**

## Present:

John Thomas, Eastern Carver County Schools
Derrick Agate Sr., Hopkins Schools
Kelly Wosika, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) School Finance/Transportation
Keith Paulson, Anoka Hennepin Schools
Fran Wilke, Minnetonka Schools
Shelly Jonas, Minnesota School Bus Operator Association
Randy Dukek, Rosemount Apple Valley Egan Schools
Linda Andert, Columbia Heights Schools
B.J. Ison, St. Paul Schools
Jan Vanderwall, Roseville Area Schools
Kevin Miller, Dassel-Cokato Schools
David Peterson, St. Paul Schools
Denny Coughlin, School Bus Training
Ray Kroll, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation
Tom (Ace) Oestreich, Bloomington Area Schools

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

**School Bus Safety and Special Education Transportation Meetings:** The School Bus Safety and Special Education Transportation committees are doing something new. If it is not possible to attend in person, they have another option available to MAPT membership.

Both meetings will be broadcast LIVE on YouTube and also on Google Plus! To view this meeting, go to YouTube.com or Google Plus and search for the "Minnesota MAPT" channel. You are encouraged to subscribe to this channel. Once there, you should be able to click on the HANGOUT or Broadcast.

Once you click on the video, you will be joining the meeting LIVE! An added benefit if you use your own Google account to log in - is that you can interact LIVE with the meeting. If you have a question, you can comment via YouTube or Google Plus. Those comments will be seen by the webmaster and can be brought to the meeting moderators and member in attendance. Your question will be discussed and answered.

They are looking forward to using technology to further our message of safety and hope that more users and members will be able to join the meeting.

*Minnesota Department of Education:* The YouTube video <u>Support Safe Routes to School-</u>Minnesota was shown.

There was a discussion surrounding Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets and the communication with county officials about road projects. It was suggested that we invite representatives from these areas to the next Issues Committee Meeting.

There are approximately 15 new charter schools planning on opening in the fall of 2013. Two charter schools may be closing this school year.

Please submit your district-owned school bus transaction forms as soon as possible. Districts may obtain the forms necessary to report purchases or disposals of school buses by visiting the MDE website at: education.state.mn.us select School Support/School Finance/Transportation/Resources.

It was mentioned that the <u>Model Contract and Best Practices documents</u> need to be revisited. The chairpersons of the subcommittees that first created these documents will reconvene their group to take another look at them to see if any changes need to be done. Others that were not on the committees initially are encouraged to participate.

It was mentioned that the laws should be amended to mandate a meeting between independent school districts and charter schools about student transportation just like there is with independent school districts and nonpublic schools.

There was a discussion on ways to orientate other school district staff, like new principals on the district's student transportation policies.

*Office of Student Transportation Safety:* Lieutenant Brian Reu, Office of Pupil Transportation Safety was not present.

**Legislation:** David Peterson provided information on current student transportation legislation matters which included seat belt clarification, stop arm violation, and cost allocation.

**Miscellaneous:** There was a discussion about the highly corrosive material that is sprayed on roadways before a snow fall and its effect on school buses.

There was a discussion about what temporary impairments that would qualify as a disability under a 504 Accommodation Plan.

Jan Vanderwall will be retiring from full time work at Roseville Area Schools after 38 years of service. The group recognized Jan for his exceptional dedication to student transportation.

Adjourn: 11:20 a.m.