

October 14, 2010
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
455 County Street, Room 224
New Bedford, MA

MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

PRESENT: MARLENE POLLOCK, JOHN FLETCHER
ABSENT: TOM CLARK

The meeting convened at 6:32 pm.

Also in attendance was Joe Amaral, Amaral Bus; Jeff Graham, Reliable Bus; Margarita Alago, Reliable Bus; Keith Amarin, Tremblay Bus; Bob Neves, Whaling City Transit and Peter Isidoro, Whaling City Transit.

The Sub Committee was given an update on the first five weeks of activity this school year by the four bus companies. Since the Sub Committee met last, two meetings with vendors have occurred in the Superintendent's office, one in August and one in September. The issue of early release on Friday afternoons at the elementary schools was discussed, specifically, what was the procedure if an elementary child was left on a bus. The question was would we return the student to the school, the transportation office or the police department.

There were a few issues with non pick up of students in the south end early in the school year. They have since been corrected.

The quote system is in place for various needs.

There was discussion of the traffic situation at Lincoln School; the issues and the remedy. Dr. Fletcher mentioned that he had a concern along with Ward Two Councillor, Steven Martins, regarding concerns of the traffic issues.

The Lincoln Shuttle started on October 12 with two busses in the morning doing back to back trips and three single busses in the afternoon. One-hundred and fifty one students have taken advantage of the shuttle. Shuttle stops were established by the Principal and verified by Ms. Angelini. There are four stops coming to the school.

The issue of signage on busses was discussed as one contractor is still in violation at this point of not having proper New Bedford Public Schools lettering on the sides of their busses. The other three vendors are compliant.

Safety issues regarding sick children and accidents were discussed. Ms. Pollock would refer these issues to the Superintendent on how to handle.

Mr. Amaral is looking for direction for elementary students left on the bus Friday 1:00 pm pickup, specifically Pulaski school.

Ms. Pollock requested a copy of each bus contact newly awarded for this school year for herself and Dr. Fletcher.

Dr. Fletcher inquired what the policy is for student drop off, by age or grade.

Mr. Oliveira stated that past practice was Kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 had to have a parent at drop off and pick up.

Dr. Fletcher suggested to the Chair that they meet with Dr. Francis to discuss policies regarding safety of all children.

The issue of professional conduct in dealing with vendors by school personnel specifically building principals in some cases was discussed.

Jeff Graham asked about calculating the fuel adjustment clause. He was referred to review the language in his contract, specifically, the addendum, to answer this question.

Bob Neves asked about additions and deletions of routes in contracts.

Jeff Graham was seeking guidelines on quotes.

Mr. Oliveira stated he would review the Dartmouth Public School guidelines to see what can be adopted for New Bedford Public Schools.

Mr. Graham is also looking for guidelines on cancelling of trips.

There being no further business, the Sub-Committee voted to adjourn at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lawrence W. Oliveira
Chief Administrator for Finance & Operations
Sub-Committee Liaison