

Transportation Committee Minutes

January 11, 2017

Nokomis Library

- I. **Public Comment** - None

- II. **Report from Transportation Director:**

Dean Cray gave an update for the start of the year beginning with the fact that this was his first Committee meeting.

 - There have been some updates to the bus garage area including: removing old buses, cleaning up the garages, the sale of 13 old buses, and improving the plug in stations to make them safer.
 - Our new mechanic (Chuck Scharf) has been a great addition to the transportation department helping head mechanic Raymond Young who has been in the district for nearly 48 years.
 - We have 42 buses on the road, 32 regular runs, 5 private drivers, 3 vans, 4 special needs buses with aides, leaving 10 spare buses.
 - We received an update on Transfinder, the State funded bus routing software. Shelda Madigan, one of our drivers, originally inputted our data and updated routes (student addresses) into the program. We are in the process of identifying what we need to get this program to assist the District. This would include training, time to input data, support from the technology dept, etc. We are hoping it will help when we combine runs for the new building project.
 - Student runs are exceeding the times the Board had previously expected; this appears to be a result of the distance across the District. Dean will continue to examine runs and keep them as short as possible.
 - Retaining/training new drivers will be a challenge, this is not just an RSU 19 challenge, but statewide and nationally.

- III. **Future Agenda Items** - looking at walking policy and to look to enforce it in order to reduce over loading our buses, and continued discussion on boundaries for school selection (this is crucial to the new buildings and overall goal of each school to provide what the students' need regardless of address)

- IV. **Other** - school boundaries were discussed at length and the need to communicate consistently with the public on where students will go to school based on where they live, not by where they want to attend.

V. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hammer
Superintendent of Schools.