



# Vineland Public Schools

## Transportation Committee

### Meeting Minutes ~ September 29, 2015

**Present:** Joe Pagano, Kim Codispoti, Dr. Mary Gruccio, John Frangipani, Helen Haley, Joe Callavini

#### **Purchasing of Buses:**

Joe Callavini reported that 54 passengers will cost \$84,000. per bus. The question came up, what is the direction that the BOE wants to go, more special Ed buses or 54 passenger buses. Dr. Gruccio asked for Mr. Callavini's recommendation.

Mr. Callavini stated he saved \$88,000.00 by transporting our Special Education Students in house, but still has about 11 routes contracted out and will need to purchase another 3 or 4 Special Ed buses this year and 4 or 5 more next year to complete his plan, bring all routes involving our students back in house.

Lease purchase will give us the best deal to replace our current fleet of buses. It was recommended that the district lease purchase 10- 54passengers for 2016-2017 school years. The lease purchase agreements will be done during this budget cycle, buses will arrive next year.

Ms. Haley presented best possible deals to do a lease purchase for 54 passenger buses and also Special Ed buses.

#### **Contract negotiations:**

The current contract with the drivers is coming up for negotiations and the following needs to be revisited.

**Vacation days and benefits packages:** The drivers get 1 hour 15 minutes each day for duties. Some of the duties no longer exist. Medical coverage for all new hires should be considered. 10 month employees should not have vacation days or only be allowed to take them at specified times.

There is driver shortage due to changes at the DMV. Drivers taking the test and getting clearances from doctors has impeded hiring of drivers. Only DMV cleared doctors can see the drivers. Also the driving test locations have limited their testing schedules.

**Bus advertising:**

Joe Callavini met with the EIRC for school bus advertising. It averages about \$20,000 per year profit. Half goes to fuel cost the other half can be spent at the district discretion.

The committee will recommend that we advertise on our buses. There are very strict guidelines for what can be placed on a school bus. The BOE must approve all advertising. EIRC will handle all the details for advertising. The program will have little impact in Mr. Callavini's workload.

Mr. Callavini reviewed **the inventory of buses** and equipment and how they are used on a daily basis. He also reviewed the current routes which we have a total of 611.

**Current School Bus Inventory**

104- 54 passenger buses

58 special needs buses

**Current School Bus Routes****611 Total Routes**

434 Routes are serviced by In-District Busses

166 Routes are completed by Sheppard Bus Service

11 Routes are completed by the County Consortium

**Discussion regarding the condensing of routes:**

Mr. Callavini will explore corner stops as a cost saving. (Corner stops are done in Millville) He will compare corner stops to our current system to see if there is a cost saving.

Corner stops may allow us to transport more students and increase the eligibility of students who currently do not meet transportation guidelines for distance to school. Corner stops also will help with fuel cost savings.

**Lost students:**

Mr. Callavini would like to pilot a system to monitor students when students enter and exit the bus by using a scan card system. When a student enters or exits a bus it records the student's entering and exiting the bus.

Parents will have access to it through an app to find their students.

The cost of a pilot program is approximately \$8,600. The pilot schools would be Sabater, Dallago, Almond Road and Winslow. To do all elementary and preschool would cost \$45,000. for a startup year and \$15,000 every year after.

Sheppard will also participate in the pilot program. Mr. Callavini was given permission to start a pilot program to monitor students entering and exiting the busses.

**Registration:**

Mr. Callavini reviewed the number of customers that come through registration during the summer. The committee discussed the necessary changes for 2016-2017 school years to improve student registration and bus passes.

- An aggressive promotional campaign will begin in May 2016 to encourage parents/guardians to register students in June, July and August.
- Summer will include open enrollment with no appointment necessary.
- August will include evening registration hours.
- Registration by appointment-only after Sept. 1.
- Temporary clerical staff will bolster full-time employees between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15.
- Office staff training provided in May and June.
- Phone lines added to call center
- Meetings with Shepard Bus Co. to improve communication
- Bus passes delivered via email when possible.
- Bus pass or route changes three days prior to the start of school will include a phone call to the parent/guardian.

The next meeting: The 2nd Monday of every month starting in November at 4:30 PM