

Transportation Committee

September 15, 2016

Present: Joseph Callavini, John Frangipani, Michael Hall, Chris Jennings, Inez Acosta, Mary Gruccio, Joe Pagano.

Sheppard Buses:

- Principals have reported that there are a number of late running busses
- Communication with Sheppard drivers has been difficult
- Sheppard buses did not purchase the full Z-pass package to notify parents through text messaging

Dr. Gruccio, Mr. Frangipani and Mr. Callavini will schedule a meeting with Sheppard bus to resolve these issues. Sheppard's contract allows for penalties to be enforced for not meeting the terms and agreement of the contract.

Communication:

- Calling the transportation office continues to be problematic for parents and staff. The volume of calls during the start of the school year is a challenge even with 8 operators
- Mr. Callavini has provided his cell phone and the cell numbers of the two supervisors to all principals.
- Parents had the option to send an email to "busstop@vineland.org" for questions or concerns. However there is a 5-6 day lag time before email gets a response. The communication system will improve with more staff responding to the emails.

Registration Office:

- This year the district increased the level of advertising with radio, print ads, and phone messaging.
From July 1 to August 21 - 1300 families came in for services (7 week period)
August 22 to Sept 4 - 1450 families came in for services (2 weeks)
- Preschool enrollment continues to drop.
- More parents are coming in after the start of school.

Bus Passes and Z-Passes

- The timeline for the mailing of bus passes will be revised.
- Both Sheppard and District drivers will drive their routes prior to the start of school and give feedback to the transportation office for bus stop safety.
- Z-Pass data continues to improve with 84% of the students reporting. Mr. Callavini will look at other variables such as car riders and students in after care programs
- Sheppard buses were not sending the text messages from the Z-Pass system. Sheppard will correct the problem.
- Z-Pass will be added to all special education buses by the end of October.

Bus advertising revenue

- 14 month revenue has been \$17,608.

Transportation and Registration Employees

- It was recommended that an employee of the month program be established for the good work that is being done in this department