

Memo

To: See Distribution
From: Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Date: February 27, 2009

Subject: Minutes from the Student Transportation Committee Meeting on 2/27/09

A meeting of East Hartford Public Schools and the First Student Bus Company's Student Transportation Committee was held on Friday, February 27, 2009 in the Business Office's Conference Room, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. Paul Mainuli called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

PRESENT Joe Petrozak, First Student Bus Company
George Simons, Transportation Coordinator
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

Status of Bus Schedules and Routes for FY 2008-09 School Year

The committee discussed Board's proposed FY 2009-10 budget reductions to student transportation. Mr. Petrozak will work with his staff to begin planning for these proposed reductions to bus operations. The budget reductions will affect late runs at the high school and Woodland School, St. Rose and St. Christopher's schools, athletics, EHGEMS and SYNERGY. St. Rose and St. Christopher's will have group stops and have similar bell times. Mr. Petrozak's staff is preparing a sample bus route schedule for St. Rose and St. Christopher schools based on this proposed reduction. All proposed reductions are cost savings measures for the school district.

Mr. Simons stated that students attending SYNERGY are arriving early at the high school for the afternoon pick-up. Mr. Petrozak will notify the shuttle bus driver to drop off the SYNERGY students at the high school at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Petrozak stated that all the bus schedules and routes were in place for the CAPT tests beginning next week.

Mr. Petrozak said that a homeless student will be added to the T-24 Van. He further stated that any additional students added to this run may require a new vehicle. The committee agreed to exhaust every other option before a new vehicle was added.

The committee agreed to have another school bus available for elementary school field trips in May and June. First Student agreed to only charge the field trip rate when the bus is in use. This option has been in place for three years and allows elementary students more opportunities for field trips. The cost of most field trips is paid for by funds raised by parents, students and PTO's.

Follow-up on Alleged School Transportation Incidents

Mr. Mainuli asked the status of the elementary students who were fighting on Bus #14. According to Mr. Simons, the two students were suspended from bus privileges for three days.

Mr. Simons also provided an update on a wheelchair bound student who was brought to the Police Department due to family circumstances.

There was no other bus incidence to report.

Discussion of Spring Athletic Schedule

Mr. Petrozak stated that he had received the spring athletic schedule from the high school and was working with the Athletic Director to make sure everything is in place.

Other Business

Mr. Petrozak stated that First Student has six bus drivers in training.

There was no other business to discuss at the meeting.

The Student Transportation Meeting was adjourned at 11:00a.m.

The next Student Transportation Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2009 at 10:00a.m.

Distribution: D. Kaprove
All Board Members
G. Simons
J. Petrozak