

Business Services Office Memorandum

TO: See Distribution

FROM: Pamela Renaud, Transportation Coordinator

DATE: October 20, 2015

Re: **Student Transportation Minutes – September 18, 2015**

A meeting of East Hartford Public Schools and DATTCO, Inc.'s Student Transportation Committee was held on Friday, September 18, 2015, in the Business Service Office, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. Mr. Mainuli called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Pam Renaud, Transportation Coordinator
Kate Schroeder, DATTCO, Inc.
Jim McMellon, DATTCO, Inc.

Bus Company Operations

Mr. Mainuli noted that the start-up of the 2015-2016 school went smoothly. The volume of phone calls to the BOE was down considerably from last year's start-up. This was attributed both to a year's experience of DATTCO providing service to the district and to parents' greater familiarity with the MapNet portal for on-line look-up of their children's bus route information. Mr. Mainuli also informed Ms. Schroeder that she can discontinue sending the daily routing updates as the volume of changes has diminished and the staff in each building can look up changes in MapNet as needed.

Ms. Renaud reported that transportation for the EHHS students attending the Senior Academy at Goodwin College is underway. Notably, the number of students participating has increased from six for the 2014-2015 school year to 26 for the 2015-2016; the number of classes offered to the students has increased from one to two. Mr. Mainuli stated that there would be no Crossroads program at EHMS this year. Synergy has once again requested transportation for the Asnuntuck program. It was also noted by Ms. Renaud that the principals have been reminded that habitual parent no-shows need to be addressed.

Mr. McMellon confirmed that DATTCO has closed on a parcel of property on Burnham Street and anticipates that the bus yard will be ready for operations some time in December. He also mentioned that they are waiting for East Hartford zoning to approve the permit for the fuel tank.

Mr. Mainuli reported that planning is underway for the new early childhood center to be based at Hockanum School. Consultants Milone and MacBroom are working on options for the reassignment of Hockanum students to other schools. Once the BOE selects an option, DATTCO will project routes for the 2016-2017 school year. The potential impact of the redistricting on transportation was discussed.

Ms. Schroeder noted that EHHS staff has been addressing the perennial problem of walkers getting on, and overcrowding, the high school buses. She also stated that Mayberry has been taking a long time to board in the afternoon. Ms. Renaud said that Mayberry's new principal has reorganized the building's dismissal procedures, so the timing should improve as the staff and students get used to the new procedures.

Bus evacuation drills will be scheduled for National School Bus Safety Week, October 12 through October 16.

The next Student Transportation Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 23, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

Distribution: N. Quesnel
All Board Members
P. Mainuli
K. Schroeder
J. McMellon