

ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT #10  
Transportation Committee Meeting  
MINUTES  
March 23, 2009

Minutes are preliminary discussions within the Transportation Committee. Final recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education at the Itasca School Board meeting on May 13, 2009.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Marcia Tornatore, Dr. Dawn Turner, Jenny Burke, Lisa Ciccia, Chris Collins, Tammy Edgecomb, Terri Kovach, Yvonne Marler, Leisha Zak, Hilda Bonilla, and Deb Mitsui.

- I. Meeting purpose: Dr. Turner explained the purpose of this meeting is to form a committee to review and address school bus procedures, practices and protocol. Participants on this committee will meet weekly between March 23, 2009 and May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the media center at Benson Primary School. The following dates were identified for future Transportation Committee meetings:

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Introductions were made. Dr. Tornatore reviewed the parameters for the meeting. It is not a voting committee. Input and feedback generated from committee members is encouraged. Dr. Turner (as supported by Dr. Tornatore) will present recommendations to the Board at the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Board of Education Meeting.

- II. Discussion Items:

A. Instruments on busses - Hilda Bonilla, First Student Dispatch Operator for District #10's busses, reviewed First Student's rule/regulation regarding transport of band instruments on school busses. The bus company does not allow transporting of large instruments due to safety issues. Currently, this issue affects a few students. Smaller instruments which can be placed on a student's lap, such as a flute or clarinet, are allowable. Options discussed: parents dropping off instruments via their car, possibility of purchasing duplicate large instruments to be housed at school. Suggestions included

contacting the district's parent/teacher organizations for assistance with purchasing additional instruments, shelving for instruments, etc.

B. Due dates for transportation requests – The “Request for Transportation” forms are not being returned in an adequate amount of time to provide the bus company with student data, plotting of routes, bus drivers familiarizing themselves with the routes, and notification of the routes and times to parents. New requirements for return of transportation forms are being implemented for the 2009-2010 school year. Bussing forms included in Benson, Franzen and Peacock registration packets must be returned to the school offices by May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Parents who return their “Request for Transportation” forms after the due dates will not receive bus stop location or pick-up time information until two weeks after the start of the new school year. Parents who do not require bussing for their student will be required to return the “Request for Transportation” form indicating (with their signature) that they are declining bus service. Upon review of returned registration materials, building secretaries will follow up with parents who have not completed a “Request for Transportation” form. Committee member suggestions included adding an informational cover page to the “Request for Transportation” form notifying parents of the new procedure. Also suggested was posting guidelines for the new procedure on the District #10 website homepage and including it in school newsletters.

C. Bus stops on Irving Park Road – There are safety concerns with the bus stops placed on Irving Park Road. It has an extremely busy traffic pattern. There is one lane east bound and one lane west bound. Busses stopping to board or drop off students hold up traffic for both lanes. During winter, snow plowed off of Irving Park Road leaves no safe place for the students to stand. Hilda Bonilla suggested moving the Irving Park Road bus stop locations. As an example, she shared that a current Irving Park Road bus stop could be moved to Schiller Street or if south of Irving Park Road then moved to Washington Street. One exception to deleting stops on Irving Park Road may be related to Benson's kindergarten grade level students. Only kindergarten students are given accommodations during the noon bus runs. Kindergarten students coming home from school at noon will be dropped off at or very near their homes. Kindergarten students coming to school at noon will be picked up at or very near their homes. When riding on the regular morning and afternoon busses, kindergartners will be picked up/dropped off at an existing stop. Kindergarten parents are asked to be certain to have an adult waiting at the bus stop with and for their children.

- III. Adjournment – Dr. Tornatore thanked everyone for attending and encouraged those present to extend an invitation to other parents who might be interested in sharing their concerns and ideas.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Benson Primary School.