

# COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Transportation Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Room of the Administration Building

Wednesday afternoon, August 6, 2008

3:00 P.M.

Members Present: John Barrett, Kathleen Ryan, Cheryl Trudon (Committee Chairman)

Others: Sherry Holmes, Fiscal Services Director; Stephanie Greenleaf, First Student Transportation; Pamela Sewell

#### I. Call to Order

The Transportation Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Cheryl Trudon at 3:04 P.M. in the Board Meeting Room of the Administration Building.

#### II. Audience of Citizens

Pamela Sewell of Flanders Road presented a page of informational questions to the Committee. Some questions were answered during the course of the meeting, and those requiring additional research will be answered subsequently to the Committee and to Mrs. Sewell. (A copy of this list is attached.)

#### III. Cost-saving Measures

Fiscal Services Director Sherry Holmes presented information to the Committee on future cost-saving measures as we prepare for a new regular education school bus contract for the 2009—2010 school year. The VERSA software program for school bus transportation routing is

one option she is investigating. It is currently used in East Hartford Public Schools and has shown routing efficiencies that have led to fuel savings and a shortening of route times. A second measure would be to specify conventional design buses in the next contract as opposed to the currently contracted “flat nose” buses. A third cost-saving measure is the reimbursement to the district by the bus contractor for diesel fuel used. Ms. Holmes answered questions on these three proposals and will continue to research their viability through such resources as CASBO (Connecticut Association of School Business Officers).

#### IV. 2008—2009 School Bus Routes

Ms. Holmes and Stephanie Greenleaf of First Student Transportation presented the 2008—2009 Coventry school bus routes and answered questions from Committee members. The proposed routes for 20 school buses are similar to those of last school year. Two changes include the use of Bus #17 and Bus #19 to transport students to E.O. Smith HS in Storrs and to Windham Regional Vocational-Technical High School in Willimantic respectively and then each to conduct a Coventry High School run. All 20 buses will have grades K—5 runs, and 19 buses will have grades 6—12 runs.

John Barrett moved and Cheryl Trudon seconded the motion that “The Transportation Committee recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the bus routes as presented.” Motion carried unanimously.

The majority of the Committee agreed to submit the 2008—2009 school bus routes for publication.

#### V. Adjournment

The Committee will meet again in September to review any adjustments to the school bus routes after the start of the new school year, to receive answers to researched questions, and to hear parental/guardian requests for changes in school bus routes/stops, if any.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Ryan

Coventry Board of Education Transportation Committee