

**Coventry Board of Education  
Coventry, CT  
Transportation Committee-Unapproved Minutes  
Meeting of Tuesday, August 11, 2009**

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

Administrators Present: Sherry Holmes, Fiscal Services Director

Also Present: Michael Collins, Vice President, M & J Bus, Inc.  
Stephenie Greenleaf, Coordinator, M & J Bus, Inc.

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm by Cheryl Trudon.

### **II. Audience of Citizens**

There was none.

### **III. 2009-2010 Bus Routes Presentation-Sherry Holmes**

Sherry Holmes noted that everyone had copies of the bus routes for the 2009-10 school year. She said the routes are the same as last year. She said the intent is to have a smooth transition with a new bus company- M & J Bus, Inc. She said there might be some changes or adjustments to the bus routes as the year goes on. She said if changes are needed, another meeting may be scheduled in the fall of 2009. She said the buses will be full. S. Holmes said that both Michael Collins, Vice President, M & J Bus, Inc. and Stephenie Greenleaf, Coordinator, M & J Bus Inc. are present to answer questions.

Cheri Trudon asked if there are any different procedures that parents need to be aware of. She asked if a student is not standing at the end of the driveway, will the bus driver keep driving, or wait at the driveway. Michael Collins said that M & J will do whatever the Board of Directors' policy is. M. Collins said the bus driver should be slowing down and looking up the driveway to see if anyone is there. M. Collins said if the Board policy is to have the bus driver stop and wait, then they will. C. Trudon said that they should not have to stop and wait for anyone.

Cheri Trudon said that last year the Coventry bus connection for the Cheney Tech students at the end of the school day was missed every day at the middle school. She said that although the Cheney Tech students arrived in Coventry, they always missed the bus connection by 1 or 2 minutes each day. She said the bus stopped along route 44 to drop off students, causing the

connection to be missed at the middle school. She asked what the Board policy was regarding students attending Cheney Tech. There was a discussion regarding eliminating the stops along route 44 so that students can make their connection home. Michael Collins said the bus can get at the beginning of the bus line leaving from Cheney Tech. K. Ryan asked if the Manchester, Cheney Tech bus could go directly to Robertson or CGS instead. There was a discussion regarding the time of day that the students would arrive home. C. Trudon said we should try to eliminate the route 44 stops and see if the connections are made at the middle school. Sherry Holmes said that change could be made, with the backup being to have the students ride the CGS or Robertson bus home.

John Barrett asked if the Cheney Tech bus picked up East Catholic students. Stephenie Greenleaf said that East Catholic students do ride home on the Cheney Tech bus. She said the East Catholic students walk over to the Cheney Tech bus at the end of the day. J. Barrett asked if the bus was being held up because of waiting for East Catholic students. S. Greenleaf said the Cheney Tech bus does not wait. She said if an East Catholic student misses the bus, they must call for a ride home.

There was a discussion about how Athletics and Clubs affect the amount of students on the school buses at different times of the year.

John Barrett asked for the student counts for Cheney Tech. Stephenie Greenleaf said that 63 students signed up for Windham Tech this year. S. Greenleaf said that 22 signed up for Cheney Tech and 21 students for E.O. Smith. J. Barrett asked how many seniors will attend Windham Tech. S. Greenleaf said there are at least 8 senior students.

Michael Collins said that M & J has some 77 passenger buses.

John Barrett asked for the count of students there are per school. Stephenie Greenleaf said her total count as of June, was 1972 students. J. Barrett wanted to know if the bus routes have taken into account any shifts in the student population. S. Greenleaf said that Windham Tech had 54 students last year.

Kathleen Ryan said she would find out how many Coventry students are attending East Catholic High School.

Michael Collins said there will be digital videos on each of the school buses which will help with discipline issues. Cheri Trudon asked how long the videos were stored. M. Collins said each tape is stored for 30 days. M. Collins said that the videos are used for discipline of students. He said the principal may ask for a video. M. Collins said another issue may be a complaint from a parent regarding the driver. C. Trudon said the school administrators should know that the videos are available for 30 days. Sherry Holmes said she would make sure the administrators are aware that videos are available for 30 days.

Cheri Trudon asked if the bus phone number is the same. Stephenie Greenleaf said it is the same phone number. Sherry Holmes said the bus routes will be posted on the website. She said that the new bus company (M & J) will be updated on the website.

Cheri Trudon asked if we retained most of our bus drivers. Stephenie Greenleaf said that two bus drivers left; one stayed with First Student, and one moved to Torrington.

Michael Collins said the make of the bus, and the name will be different on the sides of the buses. Stephenie Greenleaf said the buses are not the flat nosed buses anymore. M. Collins said the maintenance department is eight miles away.

Cheri Trudon asked if any of the bus drivers have tried driving the new buses up Riley Mountain Road. M. Collins said that M & J's maintenance department is second to none. He said there would not be a problem. There was a discussion regarding a tree on Riley Mountain Road. John Barrett said if the tree is a hazard to public transportation, then the tree warden can remove the tree.

John Barrett asked for maps of the bus routes. He said it would be beneficial to see a map. He said the new bus routes are easier and clearer to read.

#### **IV. Vote to Approve Bus Routes as submitted for publication**

MOTION: To Approve the Bus Routes as submitted for publication

By: Kathleen Ryan Seconded: John Barrett

Discussion: John Barrett asked to review Policy number 9140 which allows the Transportation committee to act independently except for contract issues.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Kathleen Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Michelle Bates  
BOE Subcommittee Clerk