

Committee Members Attending: Rona Ackerman, Mahri Aste, Mary Ann Bosley, Stephanie Cox, Roger Cryan, Mark Emery, Judy Harbeck, Michele Menapace, Marlene Parker, Phyllis Payne, Marie Reinsdorf, Patricia Velkoff, Rima Vesilind, Gayle Wood, Chris Worley, Doug Wright, Brenda (BZ) Zikowitz

Meeting called to order at 6:05

Marie Reinsdorf handed out the research conducted by the Alternative Transportation subcommittee. Jenny Lindner primarily looked at liability issues. Marie discussed British Columbia's program "Way to Go" which increased walking, bicycling, etc. through a public/private partnership. She proposed an organization to support schools in developing alternatives to school buses. We could survey students on how they get to school and alternatives they would consider as they did in the "Way to Go" program. She also mentioned the "Safe Routes to School" program in Arlington. Committee members added that PTA and other local community groups could participate in programs like these and that Fairfax County already had a map of Safe Biking Routes to Work that could be a starting point for safe routes to school.

Judy Harbeck distributed the Consortia subcommittee's Preliminary Report. She noted that FCPS has proposed consortia through which more equal access to academies and more esoteric high school courses could be provided. The Consortia committee proposes that we do a similar analysis at the elementary school and middle school levels. Transportation should be set up into consortia. This would alleviate problems with long bus rides. The cluster system is administrative; the consortia were set up for instructional and transportation reasons. It is possible that the administration could be set up by consortia instead.

Patricia Velkoff distributed and reviewed the Out-of-Boundary subcommittee's Recommendations. Michele Menapace noted that the committee considered a stronger wording like "Only mandated transportation will be provided. No optional programs will receive transportation." Mary Ann Bosley suggested that the word depot would be confusing since it is used in other transportation contexts. Rona Ackerman will substitute another phrase in the presentation (centralized pick-up points). Mark Emery noted that he does not believe a registration fee can be charged. Phyllis Payne distributed and discussed the subcommittee ideas for TJ transportation, including decoupling TJ from the high school schedule. BZ Zikowitz noted that TJ does not have its own route supervisor and the Tweak Committee concurred that it ought to. Phyllis recommended that TJ students register for transportation in the spring, after they are notified of their acceptance. Rima Vesilind reminded everyone that it would be valuable to survey the students on how they get to and from school as suggested by the Alternative Transportation subcommittee.

Chris Worley reviewed the Transportation Efficiency subcommittee's discussions. Doug Wright noted that a minimum of 10 students on a bus from a high school to an academy would be a good number because it means the high school is making a commitment to the academy program. It was noted that it cost \$962,000 to transport 4200 academy students. It also costs \$4.2 million for taxis per school year. Roger Cryan passed out his ideas for transportation options since the subcommittee did not bring anything in writing. The Tweak Committee reviewed and discussed these. Some, like SACC expansion, expanded MS after school programs, expanded late bus schedules, and increasing bus size were not considered tenable; many of the others had already been discussed.

Chris Worley asked for and received consensus on the parameters that we might use to judge the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation system. These included maximum student transportation time, arrival times before the bell and departure times after the bell.

Chris Worley and Rona Ackerman will prepare the presentation for the Transportation Task Force. Phyllis Payne volunteered to convert it to PowerPoint.

Adjourned 8:50

Attachments:

Work of the Alternative Transportation Subcommittee

Preliminary Report of the Consortia Subcommittee

Recommendations of the Out-Of-Boundary Subcommittee including ideas for TJ

Roger Cryan's Ideas for Subcommittee for Transportation Options