

Minutes of Sub-Committee on Transportation Dept Efficiencies October 9, 2007

Committee Members Attending: Rona Ackerman, Roger Cryan, Mark Emery, Pamela Minnich, Chris Worley, Brenda (BZ) Zikowitz

Meeting called to order at 7:17.

Committee discussed materials brought by BZ on Alternative Learning Center runs and academy shuttles and noted the relatively few students on large capacity buses. The possible effectiveness of using minivan instead was discussed and it was noted that while the drivers would still need a commercial driver's license, the training period is significantly shorter.

There was discussion on whether, in non-mandatory programs like Magnet and GT centers, the parents should be responsible for out-of-boundary student transportation. These programs were compared to the Immersion Schools where parents are responsible for transportation.

It was generally agreed that the focus of the committee should be making the efficiency of the general education bus routes a priority.

The configuration and organization of the 3 transportation areas was discussed. BZ noted that there has been a lot of cross training between areas. Administration for Areas 2 and 3 are located on Stonecroft in Chantilly and Area 1 is in Alexandria. Special Education transportation is separate. There was brief discussion about the possible efficacy of a central control area. BZ was asked to find a map of the transportation areas if possible.

The committee briefly discussed MapNet and wondered how often it is updated to account for new streets, etc. There will be a MapNet demonstration on Thursday in Lorton.

The committee agreed to set as its main goals:

- 1) Streamline busing for non-mandated programs
- 2) Improve transportation areas through
 - a. Better communication
 - b. Enhanced cross boundary capabilities
 - c. Consideration of a centralized administration
 - d. Additional bus parking areas
 - e. Re-engineering crosswalks, adding crossing guards, optimizing bus routes and stops, reviewing walking distances
 - f. Increasing the number of maintenance facilities was not deemed necessary.
 - g. Reviewing Special Education transportation was not considered a priority.

BZ was asked to get a variety of information from Linda Farbray including the number of buses, runs, drivers, students and the costs for General Education In-Boundary Transportation, Out-of-Boundary Transportation, and Special Education Transportation. Roger Cryan also gave her a list of raw data he would like to receive.

The committee selected Chris Worley, chair and Rona Ackerman secretary.

Next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 16 in the conference room at Mosby Woods.