



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Suffield, Connecticut

DATE: February 22, 2021
TO: Tim Van Tasel
FROM: Bill Hoff
RE: M&J Contract Extension

Our current three-year contract extension with M&J contract expires 6/30/2021. This year will complete eight years of M&J providing bus service to Suffield.

M&J has done an excellent job for Suffield. They have an excellent safety record. For 2017-18, M&J had 3.34% of their buses put out of service at their annual inspection. This was the lowest of all the major bus companies operating in Connecticut. The average for all the other major bus companies operating in the state was 7.56%. The terminal manager, Jackie McDunnah is extremely proactive in solving problems. She does her best to meet the needs of our families whenever possible.

As both M&J and Suffield would like to continue our partnership, I have had numerous discussions with M&J regarding a contract extension. I am proposing we extend our contract with M&J for five years with annual increases of 4.10%, 3.25%, 3.00%, 3.00%, and 3.00%. As part of the contract, by the end of the third year M&J will upgrade the recording devices for all bus cameras. The cost and cost increase for the regular buses for each of the five years is listed below.

Year	Per Bus	Annual Cost (18 buses)	\$ Increase
Current	\$278.45	\$912,202	
2021-22	\$289.87	\$949,602	\$37,100
2022-23	\$299.29	\$980,465	\$30,863
2023-24	\$308.27	\$1,009,879	\$29,414
2024-25	\$317.51	\$1,040,175	\$30,296
2025-26	\$327.04	\$1,071,380	\$31,205

Suffield will continue to have one of the lowest daily bus rates in the state. The chart that follows compares Suffield to other districts in the state with low daily rates. Even after the increase over five years, Suffield will remain as one of the lowest cost districts.

Daily Rate for Type I Bus

District	Vendor	2020-21	2021-22	2025-26
Suffield	M&J	\$278.45	\$289.87	\$327.04
Somers	First Student	\$338.07	\$344.83	\$373.26
Enfield	Smyth	\$259.10	\$264.28	\$286.07
East Granby	M&J	\$310.84	\$317.06	\$343.19
Region 4	First Student	\$281.22	\$286.84	\$310.49
Portland	M&J	\$321.12	\$327.54	\$354.54
Hampton	East Conn	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$338.13
Bolton	M&J	\$315.83	\$327.99	\$365.57

Note: 2021-22 and 2025-26 rates based on contract amount if known. If unknown, used a 2% annual increase.

Based on these rates, I recommend the Board of Education approve a five-year bus contract extension with M&J Bus Company at the daily rates listed above.