

Coventry Board of Education
Coventry, Connecticut

Transportation Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes of July 21, 2021
Administration Building Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Michael Sobol, Committee Chairman
Eugene Marchand
Robert Williams

Administrators Present:

Dr. David J. Petrone, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Carroll, Director of Finance and Operations
Christian Marcinczyk, District Transportation Liaison

Also Present:

Nicole Irvine, M&J Bus

I. Call to Order

M. Sobol called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. Audience of Citizens

There were none.

III. VOTE: Approve minutes of October 8, 2020

MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 8, 2021

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

IV. Information: Reopening of the 2021-22 School Year

Dr. Petrone reviewed the procedures for bus route presentation. He said that M&J was asked to display any major changes on a map. Ms. Irvine confirmed there were no major changes for 2021-22.

Dr. Petrone talked about guidelines related to the pandemic and the start of 2021-22. He said that school bus transportation is considered public transportation; everyone must wear a mask at this time.

The Committee discussed whether cleaning high-touch areas on the buses is still necessary; guidelines from the Department of Public Health said it is no longer necessary. M. Sobol said if the science and the facts support that change, he agrees. E. Marchand and R. Williams agreed. The Committee also agreed to continue with assigned seating to assist with contact tracing as necessary.

The Committee discussed the bus routing software, which is being used to the best of its ability. The Committee discussed the parent bus tracking software, which will be piloted again this fall to work out some of the issues.

E. Marchand asked about the chain of command regarding complaints. Dr. Petrone said the updated guidelines included in the policy and administrative regulations are being followed.

The Committee discussed the ride times, the late bus ridership, state highway stops, and drivers' review of the routes.

The Committee indicated they looked forward to an update after school starts.

V. Information: E. O. Smith High School Schedule Change

Dr. Petrone noted that E. O. Smith has developed a schedule where they will begin on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. He said we have a mandated responsibility to provide transportation, which we will do, but we will provide it at the normal arrival time. He added we will inform E. O. Smith in writing of this and they will need to provide a safe place for students to wait for school to start. There was agreement from the Committee to move forward with this plan.

VI. Discussion and Possible VOTE: Approve the 2021-22 Bus Routes

MOTION: To approve the bus routes for the 2021-22 school year as presented at this time.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

VII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

By: E. Marchand

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberlee Arey Delorme

Approved: September 16, 2021