PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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HOME OF THE VIKINGS

5/14/2026

RE: **SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT**

Members of the School Board

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to provide a summary of the recently negotiated settlement regarding the School Bus Transportation Contract for the upcoming 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. The agreement reflects adjustments necessary to address increasing operational costs while continuing to provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services for our students and activities.

The key changes to the agreement are outlined below:

Regular Transportation Rates

- A 3% increase in the monthly regular transportation rate for the 2026-27 school year.
- A 3% increase in the monthly regular transportation rate for the 2027-28 school year.

Open Enrollment Transportation

- The transportation rate will increase from $2.00 per mile to $3.00 per mile.
- The invoicing structure has been updated from a household-based billing model to a mileage-based billing model to improve consistency and transparency.

Extra-Curricular Transportation

- The mileage rate will increase from $2.00 per mile to $2.50 per mile.
- The driver hourly rate will increase from $22.00 per hour to $23.00 per hour.
- The minimum billable hours per trip will decrease from four (4) hours to two (2) hours, providing greater flexibility and cost efficiency for shorter trips and activities.

Mid-Day Preschool Transportation

- The mid-day preschool transportation rate will remain unchanged at $60.00 per route for both the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

Fuel Escalator Adjustments

- A new diesel fuel price bracket has been established at $3.75.
- The regular gasoline price threshold will increase from $2.00 to $2.75.

These negotiated adjustments were made collaboratively and are intended to balance fiscal responsibility with the realities of rising transportation, labor, and fuel costs. The updated agreement positions the district to continue maintaining dependable transportation services while supporting operational sustainability over the next two school years.
Thank you for your continued support and consideration.