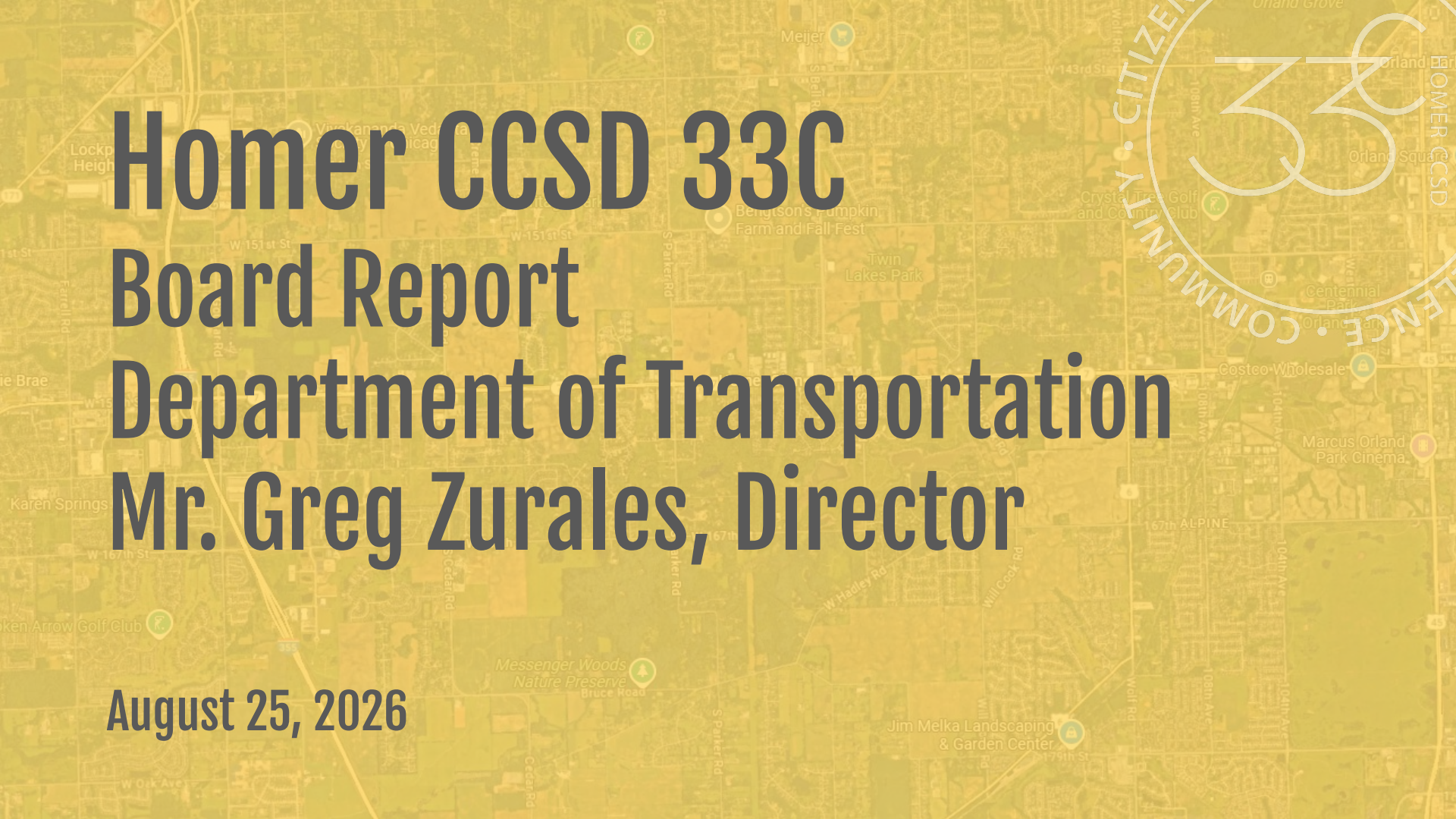




Homer CCSD 33C

Board Report

Department of Transportation

Mr. Greg Zurales, Director

August 25, 2026

Homer 33C Transportation NOW HIRING BUS DRIVERS



- Starting Wage of **\$26.10 per hour**
- Experienced Bus Drivers Starting Wage Up to **\$29.58 per hour**
- **Medical/Dental/Vision Benefits Available**
- IMRF Pension
- Paid Training On-Site
- Rewarding Career in Public Service



Scan QR Code to Apply
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Call to Apply: 708-226-7625

Board Report – Transportation Department

Staffing Updates--August 2026 to Begin the School Year

- Three Driver Resignations in July; One Driver Resignation in August
- 53 Full-Time *Homer* 33C Drivers
 - 49 Routes with Full-Time *Homer* Drivers
 - 1 Unfilled Route Covered By *Homer* Full-Time Sub (191)
 - 3 Available *Homer* Full-Time Substitute Drivers for Regular Substitute Duties
- 4 *First Student* Drivers in *Homer* Vehicles
 - 2 General Education Routes (300 and 325)
 - 1 Special Education Route (711)
 - 1 Unfilled General Education Route (189)
- 5 *First Student* Drivers in *First Student* Vehicles
 - Out-of-District Placements
- 62 Full-Time Driving Positions to Begin School Year (*Homer* and *First Student* Combined)
 - 59 Total Routes
 - 3 Full-Time Substitute Drivers



Board Report – Transportation Department

2026-27 Route Sharing with District 92 for Out-of-District Routes

- Homer 33C and Lockport District 92 Partnering on Five Routes for Out-of-District Routes
 - Two *Homer 33C* Routes in *Homer* Vehicles with *Homer* Drivers
 - Two *Lockport District 92* Routes in *First Student* Vehicles
 - One *Homer 33C* Route in *First Student* Vehicle

2026-27 Part-Time Substitute Driving Staff

- Five Drivers Currently Active
- Two Prospective Drivers Finishing Up Vetting/Training Process



Board Report – Transportation Department

Impact of Summer Bus Driver Resignations--Four Total Resignations

- 53 Full-Time *Homer 33C* Drivers (57 Full-Time *Homer* Drivers before Summer Resignations)
 - 49 Routes with Full-Time *Homer* Drivers
 - 1 Unfilled Route Covered By *Homer* FT Sub (191)
 - This Shortage and Coverage Created by One Resignation
 - 3 Available *Homer* Full-Time Substitute Drivers for Regular Substitute Duties
 - A Fully Staffed Full-Time Substitute Driver Pool is 5 Drivers
 - This Shortage and Coverage Created by Two Resignations
- 4 First Student Drivers in *Homer* Vehicles
 - 2 General Education Routes (300 and 325)
 - 1 Special Education Route (711)
 - 1 Unfilled General Education Route (189)
 - This Shortage and Coverage Created by One Resignation



Board Report – Transportation Department

Recruitment Opportunities

- **Billboard Banners on School Grounds Near High Traffic Areas**
 - Bell Road: Homer/Hadley Campus by Ross School
 - Cedar Road: Transportation Entrance and Young School
 - Farrell Road: Butler School
 - 143rd Street: Possible Goodings Grove Location TBD
- **Young and Goodings Grove Open Houses with Buses, Banners, and Flyers--Monday, August 17th**
- **Village of Homer Glen Labor Day Parade--Saturday, September 5th**
 - Decorated Bus
 - Recruitment Banner
 - Recruitment Flyers
- **Department Representative at Each School's Curriculum Night with Recruitment Banners and Recruitment Flyers**
- **Send Bus Driver Recruitment Information to Homer Lunchroom Monitors**

Mr. Greg Zurales
Dir. of Transportation
August 25th, 2026



Board Report – Transportation Department

On-Site Billboard Banners



Transportation Entrance



HJH/HMS--Bell Road



Young--Cedar Road

Board Report – Transportation Department

Summer Fleet Maintenance

- *Safety Lanes Compliance Team*

- Chris Kosmowski--Dispatch and Organization
- Ben Cobbett--Mechanic
- Bob Flynn--Driver
- Mike Haehnlein--Mechanic
- Tina Kadow--First Aid Kits
- Julie Kocielko--Driver
- Jen Meyer--Driver
- Maria Muranski--Driver
- Kat Negrete--Driver
- Barb Osterkorn--Driver
- Henry Pycioch--Mechanic
- Keith Yaeger--Driver
- Kelly Zink--First Aid Kits

- *Bus Washing Summer Team*

- Jen Connelly
- Kelly Nissen
- Miriam Reyes-Guzman
- Kasie Rogowski
- Toni Smolen
- Johnelle Vargo



Board Report – Transportation Department

Summer Fleet Maintenance--Summer Bus Washing and Detailing



Board Report – Transportation Department

Special Education Driver Meeting and Training--August 11th and August 17th

- Complete equipment lists and seating charts for special education transportation
- Training on specialized equipment and other important topics needed for transporting students safely
 - Bus Lifts
 - Securing Wheelchairs
 - Lap Belts
 - Five Point Harnesses
 - Student Safety Vests
 - Bus Stop Authorization Forms
 - Student Comfort Items
 - Review Transportation Plan Portion of Student IEP
 - Opportunity for Drivers to Ask Questions and Seek Clarifications



Board Report – Transportation Department

Special Education Driver Hands-On Training--August 17th



Board Report – Transportation Department

Driver Institute Day--August 12th

- **Transportation Department Meeting:** Focus on student safety, professional collaboration, and department-wide expectations to best support our students and each other
 - Topics included overview of safety critical items from previous year's department meetings
 - Danger Zones
 - Use of External Mirrors
 - Bus Security--Expectations for Securing Bus Properly
 - Safe Student Crossing Procedures during Drop-off and Pick-up
 - Mechanics of a Proper Student Stop
 - Shift to Neutral
 - Application of Parking Brake
 - Service Brake Fully Depressed
 - Safely Loading and Unloading Student Passengers
 - Railroad Crossing Procedures
 - Driving in Wet/Icy Conditions
 - Braking and Following Distances



Mr. Greg Zurales
Dir. of Transportation
August 25th, 2026



Board Report – Transportation Department

Driver Institute Day--August 12th

- **Will County ROE Annual Driver Refresher Course**--Required training to keep school bus driver credentials current
- Safety-Centered Training by Certified Presenter
- Safety Topics Included...
 - Vehicle Design and Proper Use of Mirrors to Maximize Student Safety
 - Correct Loading and Unloading Procedures Using a Properly Secured Bus to Maximize Student Safety
 - Tips for Neuroaffirming Practices on the School Bus
 - Consistent Routines
 - Visual Supports
 - Sensory Considerations
 - Clear Communication
 - Flexible Seating Options
 - Food Allergy Awareness
 - ISBE/IDOT Restrictions on Personal Cell Phone Use While in Operation of a School Bus
 - Wheelchair Lift Operation and Wheelchair Securement

Mr. Greg Zurales
Dir. of Transportation
August 25th, 2026



Board Report – Transportation Department



Driver Institute Day--August 12th

- **Dry Runs and Parking Lot Staging**
 - Drivers run AM route and bus lot staging for all routes and schools.
 - After AM bus lot staging is complete, drivers exit lot, turn around safely, and practice the PM lot staging.
- **Department Team Members Present at Each School Parking Lot**
 - Communicate observations on radios to assist drivers
 - Observe lot staging to ensure safe staging of buses
 - Identify any opportunities for arrival and bus staging that maximize student safety and ensure route efficiency (i.e. routes are arriving on-time for AM student drop off)

Mr. Greg Zurales
Dir. of Transportation
August 25th, 2026

A yellow location pin graphic with a white outline, positioned behind the signature text.

Board Report – Transportation Department



Navigation System Updates for 26-27 School Year

- Eleven tablets purchased for outfitting buses with Wayfinder Navigation Software
 - Three previously purchased and mounted for 2026 spring pilot
 - Eight newly purchased in August 2026 for upcoming school year
- Five Full-Time Substitutes Using Spare Buses
- Six "Single Run" Elementary School Drivers
 - Stand-by in AM/PM for HJH/HMS subbing needs



Board Report – Transportation Department



Navigation System Updates for 26-27 School Year

Cost Figures for 26-27 Navigation System Use

- Upfront Costs
 - Wayfinder Annual Licenses: \$2,800
 - This includes training and check-in meetings with a designated project manager from Transfinder
 - Eight New Tablets: Free
 - Eight Mounting Kits: \$2,700 (\$337.50 per bus)
- Recurring Costs
 - Monthly Tablet Cellular Bill: \$220 (\$20 per bus) (\$2,640 Annual)

Total 26-27 Cost: \$7,980



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