

ER9 Transportation Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Central Office
February 24, 2011

Attendees: Macchio, Peskay
Administration: Sullivan, Colligan

Mr. Macchio called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

No public comment.

Motion: Move approval of January 19, 2011 minutes to end of the meeting. Peskay, Macchio. Approved

Discussion and possible action regarding transportation for the 2011-12 school year

The committee invited Phil Johnson, Vice President, School Bus Operations, DATTCO, to advise on the choice of "alternates" (video and sound recording equipment, GPS, seat belts, etc.) for the new vehicles to be provided under the new transportation contract beginning July 1, 2011.

The discussion began with seat belts (Redding BOE wants them available to students, Easton BOE does not require them). Mr. Johnson explained that seat belts on buses are not the same as those in private cars. Lap belts are provided and there is no conclusive evidence that this type of belt makes children riding a school bus safer. In fact there is some evidence that they may hinder a child's ability to exit the bus. The belts are also used for unintended purposes i.e. to hit on another. Mrs. Sullivan was asked to bring the belt issue to the attention of the Redding BOE at its next meeting.

Cameras and GPS equipment are considered very useful for monitoring student behavior and bus performance/location. Mr. Johnson explained that Central Office would have the capability to track buses on their routes, check speed, location, etc. It can also store recordings (video and sound) to establish a history of bullying or any other misconduct aboard the buses.

MOTION: Move to approve the installation of both cameras and GPS equipment on all vehicles (including the vans). Pesky, Macchio. Approved. Cost saving proposals such as the pre-payment discount, waiver of performance bond and municipal leasing were also discussed. Mr. Macchio and Mrs. Sullivan will meet with the DATTCO chief financial officer review these options more closely.

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2011 Meeting

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011. Macchio, Peskay. Approved.

Motion: Move to adjourn. Peskay Macchio. Approved.

Mr. Macchio adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sullivan
Acting Secretary