

Filed subject to approval

Easton, Redding, Region 9 Boards of Education
Transportation Committee Special Meeting
October 18th, 2017
Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Committee members: Coppinger, D'Agostino and Denny
Administration: McMorrان, Reiss and Ponzio
Public: Chris Parkin and Cindy Shortt

Mr. Coppinger called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

MOTION: made to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 ER9 Joint Boards Transportation Special meeting. Motioned by D'Agostino; Seconded Denny. Passed, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Parkin shared concern that the Transportation Committee had not met earlier due to the issue of the proposed Easton Bus Depot.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. D'Agostino commented that although discussions and planning have been going on for some time, the Committee had not been notified nor included in any of the discussions.

Ms. Denny echoed Mr. D'Agostino's comments and added that she thought the discussions focused on the Bus Depot was a town decision.

Mr. Coppinger echoed other board member comments, and noted that there are still no representatives of the Bus Depot proposal at this meeting to update us on the status.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Easton Bus Depot Status:

Mr. Reiss stated that he believed that the Bus Depot was driven by the current Bus Depot lease (in Bethel) which would expire prior to the end of our current Dattco Contract. Now that the current Bus Depot location lease is extended through the entire Dattco contract, there is no immediacy for the project.

Discussion continued with a result of no action needed at this time and that we should restrict our future negotiations for the new bus contract. In addition both Mr. Reiss and Mrs. Ponzio believe that managing an Easton Bus Depot, could place an undue burden on an already stretched Central Office.

On New Bus Contract:

We are currently in the 2nd year of our three-year contract with Dattco. Mrs. Ponzio has the RFP mostly completed. Mr. Reiss and Mrs. Ponzio will coordinate to complete RFP. The committee should meet in about a month to review RFP and move forward on having it moved forward after the Oct 24th ER9 Joint Boards of Education meeting.

Some issues with RFP would be:

1. Fuel type to use
2. Security cameras
3. Seat Belts
4. Size of bus fleet
5. Start time adjustments

Mr. Reiss will look into the legal requirements we face when making decisions on size of fleet and possibility of coordinating emergency requirements for bussing with neighboring school districts.

Mr. Reiss prefers having the Bus Company manage the Bus Depot, to ease workload on central office.

Mrs. Ponzio has a concern with being able to attract enough qualified bus drivers and would like that to be managed by Bus Company.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: move to adjourn the meeting. Motioned by Denny; Seconded by D'Agostino. Passed, unanimously.

The meeting adjourned 8:33p.m.

Submitted by
Paul Coppinger - 10/24/2017