

Minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting of January 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM

Present: Kristen Sparhawk Chair, Art Batacchi, Charles Flynn, Dennis Sears, Vito Valentini

There were no members of the public present.

Because of the failure of bus transportation due to cold several days before, the transportation committee was concerned as to the reliability of our transportation in the future. Mr. Batacchi, who as a school bus senior mechanic has significant experience in these matters, prepared a demonstration for the committee members. He explained that one of the qualities that is endemic to diesel fuel is that it deposits paraffin in the fuel filters of commercial vehicles in severe cold clogging the fuel delivery system. He showed a fuel filter that had been cut in half with the inhibiting paraffin in place. Mr. Batacchi then exhibited several additives that are necessary to prevent the condition and stated that going forward into the rest of the winter our bus contracting companies will be adding these remedies to their fuel.

Some casual conversation ensued as to the possibility of installing fuel preheaters on the busses. However, since the maintenance of the rolling stock is the purview of the contracting companies, no recommendations were made.

The committee discussed the status and impact of the loss of the bus now transporting the students from Farmington River. Mr. Valentini stated that perhaps our position should not be so cut and dry. Mr. Valentini suggested that even though it is not anticipated that we would provide a new bus for the one which is being taken out of service, the district has been budgeting for this transportation for a long time and perhaps some sort of accommodation could be considered. Mr. Valentini continued that without exact knowledge as to the extent of the service now offered and what the current cost is, the committee could not make any considered suggestions. Mr. Flynn reiterated his position from the previous meeting and stated that he felt that it was the responsibility of the Farmington River district to provide transportation to the boundaries of our district. Ms. Sparhawk stated that she would make inquiries as to the specifics of that service route as well as other routes for the next meeting.

Some general discussion followed concerning how we now offer bus service. Ms. Sparhawk stated that a comprehensive look at the routes, the number of students serviced, and the possibility of some innovative changes was necessary. It was suggested that on some routes there might even be different service offered in the afternoon from the morning. It was the consensus of the committee that bussing is a complicated issue with perhaps a number of solutions to a single service need.

The meeting adjourned. Submitted by Vito Valentini