

Draft Minutes -- Transportation Sub Committee October 5, 2016

Present: Kristin Sparhawk, Art Batacchi, Dennis Sears, Vito Valentini, Chris Regan, Dave Hastings.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of the minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

Ms. Sparhawk invited Ms. Regan to report to the committee what is the status of our seeking bussing service for the upcoming contract.

Ms. Regan stated that she has been involved in conversations with the business managers of our neighboring districts. The consensus at this time among this group is that there is a viable possibility of having a multi-district contract. There is some question of which districts would participate but it seems that Berkshire Hills has contract timing that corresponds to ours and is the most likely to participate.

Mr. Valentini asked which bus companies might be able to expand to this service level. Mr. Batacchi suggested that our current carriers, First Student and Dufour are all possibilities. He continued that the biggest obstacle is the shortage of drivers.

Ms. Regan asked if the committee thought that there could be some route altering steps such as the implementation of more group stops to increase route efficiency. During the discussion the consensus in the committee was that this is a real possibility as well as the elimination of some redundant routes. Mr. Batacchi suggested that the expanded use of vans might be something that would work for us.

The committee in discussion also agreed that we should not bid out our existing routes but should simply bid the district and let the bus company, with some oversight, choose the best routes for us.

Mr. Sears asked what is the timeline for the bidding process. Ms. Regan stated that we should be ready to bid by this coming January.

The Committee reiterated its desire to have an afternoon bus.

Ms. Sparhawk asked the business manager to speak to our grant coordinator to seek a Century Grant to help pay for the Afternoon bus.

Ms. Regan suggested another meeting as soon as possible to prepare for the bidding process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Submitted V. Valentini