

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

MC CUSD #404

November 9, 2023, 5 p.m. @ Unit Office – Joy, IL

The Mercer County Transportation Committee met on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at the Unit Office in Joy, IL. People present were Julie Wagner, Lori Nelson, Supt Petrie, and Ernie Dillie. Absent – Balmer.

Call to Order at 5:08 p.m. – Wagner

Old Business:

1. **Bus Monitors** – have 5 new monitors now and they have been shuffled to routes that needed them. We have added one on the Public Transportation route that takes our students to Camelot/ High Roads.
2. **Driver Shortage** – One new driver application since last meeting. She may drive for MC or Johannes, unsure yet. Still looking for sub drivers. At any point in the near future, we could need 2 to 3 new drivers due to health issues with them or their family members.
3. **Additional Vehicles** – Still looking for a 10 passenger transit van to purchase. To be used for academic transportation, vans must be 10 passenger only. Found a plow truck from Rondo to replace the one used for Joy / NBE / bus barn and summer maintenance crew. **Committee recommends purchase of the new plow truck for \$18,268.** Bill will be in Bill List in upcoming board packet.

New Business:

1. **Bid Specs for Bus Contract** – We are still waiting for Midwest Bus Sales to deliver our correct buses with our requested specs of AC, cameras, wifi, and hand parking brake (per contract) that we signed for a year ago. Once they arrive, Johannes may take over the lease contracts on the old buses we have and continue to use them (or part of them) on their half of the district. Discussion on putting out bid specs for a multi-year transportation contract for the old Aledo part of our district. Several companies were listed as some we would reach out to in order to secure a bid from them. **Committee recommends keeping specs for AC, cameras, wifi, and hand parking brake when putting the contract out for bids.**
2. **Other** – Several topics were followed up on from last meeting in Sept '23: 1) Conduct card issues are much better, with admins taking care of discipline issues well. However, new issue of vehicles running the bus stop signs while buses are loading or unloading students. 2) Checking in on Johannes buses overcrowding issues – possible solutions include a) opening Apollo building earlier to allow earlier parent drop off at school instead of just at bus stops and to alleviate congestion at the building, and b) limiting in-town stops pick up to elementary age students only. 3) Checking on changes in MC routes and pick up times for the 23-24 school year. Changes are minimal with average starting pick up at 6:30 to 6:35 a.m. Bus routes have been forwarded in email to committee members.

Adjourn: Moved by Nelson, 2nd by Wagner. Passed - 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Wagner, Transportation Committee