

## **Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**July 11, 2024 – 3pm – Unit Office**

The meeting of the Mercer County School District Board of Education Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, July 11th, at 3:00 p.m. in the unit office. Persons present were board members Julie Wagner and Lori Nelson and Superintendent Tim Farquer.

### **Points of discussion:**

1. Discussion of transportation issue of early bus pickup times for rural students. Both MC and Johannes routes still have early pickups in the 6:30 a.m. to 6:40 a.m. range. How can we solve this problem?
  - A. Superintendent Farquer has proposed utilizing a new routing software to make our bus routes and pick up times more efficient and accurate. The proposal was reviewed by the committee members and recommended for approval at the regular board meeting next week. We can recoup most of that cost through State reimbursement. The software may be able to find better routes and more efficiencies to allow us to not have early drop offs at 7:15 a.m. at New Boston in the future, but a more reasonable time as is common practice in the other three buildings in the district.
  - B. Superintendent Farquer has asked our transportation staff to come up with a way to add an extra route that would visit the Eliza area to make bus pickups later for those currently getting on earliest. Several different scenarios were presented to the committee. The committee agreed to trying to find an extra driver so that such a scenario could be implemented for the 24/25 school year.
2. Discussed issue of having bus “hubs” in various parts of the district where buses do an exchange of students, and then go to separate locations for drop off. Examples are Keithsburg at the former elementary school, Early Learning Center in Joy, and New Boston Elementary.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Wagner