

# **Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes**

## **MC CUSD #404**

**September 14, 2023, 5 p.m. @ Unit Office – Joy, IL**

The Mercer County Transportation Committee met on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at the Unit Office in Joy, IL. People present were Julie Wagner, Supt Petrie, Kim Lloyd, Jodi O'Leary, and Ernie Dillie. Absent – Balmer and Nelson.

Call to Order at 5:08 p.m. – Wagner

### ***Old Business:***

1. **Driver Shortage** – Johannes is running two “combined” routes due to lack of drivers. District transportation keeps receiving applicants, but the numerous requirements to get them certified and licensed prevents most of them from completing them. Many drivers who are nearing retirement or are of retirement age are not renewing their licenses due to the new requirements placed on them to get them renewed (state and federal rules). Brian Dillie and Dustin Murray (PM routes only) are subbing a lot.
2. **Johannes Town Stops** – VERY crowded buses again. Looking for solutions to the problem.
3. **Route times** – see attached listing. Still VERY early times on both sides of our transportation. Still VERY early drop off times at NBE for 2 of the District routes.

### ***New Business:***

1. **Bus Monitors** – had training over the summer for early hires, need training for those hired after the start of school. Short monitors for J buses, but 2 more potential candidates pending.
  - a. ***Conduct Card System*** – serious issue with this and general discipline on buses, this year especially. Students showing no respect for drivers or monitors – rip up cards in faces of the adults and claim nothing will be done to them for their poor behavior on the bus. Monitors unsure of what they are allowed to do to curb bad behavior. There is irregular handling of incidents by administrators in each building – conduct cards are turned in to the building principal for disciplinary follow-up. Few to no consequences for kids w/ behavioral issues on buses. Ernie & Jodi have encouraged their drivers to continue reporting to admins.
2. **Additional Vehicles** – new wheelchair bus (2009 - #12) purchased last month. Still needs lettering done and then can be used. It is a 24 passenger – 18 seats and 2 wheelchairs. This will help ease the number of miles on our BHASED bus which is under a mileage limit with our current leases. BHASED runs 300 miles per day, just on their single route.

***Adjourn:*** 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Wagner, Transportation Committee