

School Committee Members: Mr. Stewart, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Batacchi, Mr. Law, Ms. Bush, Mr. Sears

Absent: Mr. Travis, Ms. Lartigue, Mr. Flynn, Ms. Brown

Administration: Chris Regan, David Hastings

Press: None

Others:

1. Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the 2018-2022 Transportation Contract. The bid was approved at the February 2, 2017 School Committee Meeting. (Copy attached)

*Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Bush, to approve the 2018-2022 Transportation Contract.  
Vote: Art Batacchi – Abstain; Bob Law, Dennis Sears, Marcella Bush, Bonnie Silvers, Carl Stewart – Yes. Motion passes.*

Discussion followed.

Ms. Silvers voiced concern that there was nothing under Conditions & Terms regarding the use of cell phones while the vehicle is in motion.

Mr. Sears stated that a Contract with a public agency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has implied consent to follow the laws of the commonwealth.

Ms. Regan quoted that item #4 of the contract addresses that the contractor shall comply with all federal, state and local statutes, rules and regulations now and hereafter applicable to the transportation of school children and agrees that any failure to comply with such statutes shall be deemed a breach of this contract.

Further discussion ensued regarding this topic.

Chris Regan informed the committee that due to an error in transmitting an excel file with the rates Marie Massini did not get all of the information (the activity bus rate was omitted). The cost in year 1 and maybe year 2 will be higher, but the overall cost over the 5 years remains the same. A copy of the revised established rates, FY18 through FY22 is attached.

3. Consideration of Quorum and Voting Requirements of the School Committee.

Mr. Stewart informed the committee that there had been raised from time to time a question that some school committee votes require a majority of the committee as constituted. Meaning if there are 6 members present, the membership is 10, there is a quorum. The vote is 5 to 1, but the vote fails because the committee consists of 10.

Mr. Stewart explained that he had gone through the policy manual and also did research and could not find anything to substantiate this. Mr. Stewart would like to eliminate questions about this by having the school committee adopt a rule, except as contracted by state law if any, of what constitutes a vote of the committee to eliminate future questions about this.

Mr. Stewart further stated that anything in MA General Law, Code of MA Regulations, or contractual obligations takes precedence over our internal rule of what constitutes a committee.

*Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to have all votes of the school committee, except as otherwise required by state law, state regulations and contractual obligations be determined by a majority vote of the school committee members present and voting. It was so voted, unanimously.*

On a motion by Ms. Silvers, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. It was so voted, unanimously.

**Documents presented at this meeting.**

- Transportation Contract July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2022