# Welcome and Introductions: Called to order at 6:30 p.m.

# Charge of the Committee

To study and make recommendations to the Board of Education by January or February based upon the evaluation of routes, bus stops, financial outlook for the district and state, and walk zones for students in the District.

# Roles and Responsibilities

## Facilitators: Dr. William Caron, Old Quarry Principal, and Pam Mazurek, Transportation Director

## Recorder of Minutes: Patty Loisi, River Valley Parent

## Time Keeper: Denise Kraft, Bus Driver

## Committee Ground Rules

#### Timeliness – respect each other’s time and start on time

#### Active listening, discourage interrupting

#### Everyone participates to reflect field opinion

* + 1. Recommendation must align with the District Mission and in the best interests of the children.

1. **Building a Knowledge Base – Framing Issues**

* In August vote, State Government cut Transportation reimbursements by 42% statewide, effective in the 2010-2011 school year.
* State Government has not provided any guidelines on where the cuts will occur.
* State reimbursements typically range from 5% - 80% of school expense
  1. **State Transportation Requirements**
     1. Buses service 1 ½ miles from attendance center, outside of 1 ½ is deemed hazardous by State.  
        *An option may be to reevaluate hazard routes within walk zone because last assessment was in 1998, before sidewalks and subdivisions were built.*
     2. Students who have bus transportation written into their Individualized Education Plan may need to be provided with door to door transportation.
  2. **Definition of Terms:** See “School Safety Busing” Handout Section 556.115
  3. **Safety and Security of Bus Routes**
     1. Primary concern of this Committee is ensuring the children’s safety.
     2. What determines safety varies by individual so the Committee considers the mandates and hazards (railroad tracks, busy intersections, sexual predator locations, etc.).
  4. **TransPar Transportation Assessment**

TransPar is a third-party service that conducted a study in 2007 to make transportation more efficient in our district. (*Try not to spend too much time focusing on old assessment unless necessary*.) As a result of their assessment, the district implemented the following changes:

* reduced 3-tier a.m./p.m. bus schedule down to 2 tiers
* computerized routing
* bus driver schedules reduced from 5-hour shifts to 4 ¾-hour shifts
* kindergarten bus routes reduced from 7 to 4, resulting in reduced mileage and fuel expenses
* most bus stops are an 1/8 of mile apart
* picked up special education reimbursement (typically 80% state reimbursement)
  1. **State Financial Concerns**
     1. Run a tight ship
     2. Evaluate how changes made reduced expenses. Consider:

#### number of students on a bus (71 is maximum)

#### number of students per seat (K-5 grade = 3, 6-8 grade = 2)

#### route times

* + 1. What were the cost savings over the past 3-year period and compare to the 42% cut.
  1. **Hazardous Route and Route Study**
     1. Needs to be updated since 1998, and 1987 before that, as more sidewalks are in place.
     2. IDOT requirements must be met.
     3. Board of Education has the right to add 2 points that could put walk zones into hazard route.
     4. Lt. Tully - School crossing guards are scheduled through the Police Department and paid through other taxes than school funds. Sd113a currently has 4 crossing guards: Keepataw/Kip, Hillview/Una, 127th/Timberline (until stoplight) and Central.
  2. **Planning Routes/Organization of Routes**
     1. Ridership – 90% of population is the same in any school year whereas building populations change every 3 years causing shifts and rerouting.
     2. Safety
     3. Distance between bus stops (maximum of 1/4 mile is requirement)  
        *Consider walking or parents getting children to bus stops*
  3. **Building Logistics/Boundary Concerns**
     1. Some states are extending 1 ½ mile walk zone to 2 miles. As our state is encouraging a “Safe Routes to School” plan, this may be a consideration in the future. The State looks at walkers to benefit from learning a lot about safety, becoming better drivers, and walking is healthier.
     2. Evaluate impact of rerouting walk zones, hazard areas, Central school, etc.

#### If Central closes, influx of students to River Valley/Oakwood campus

#### If Central stays open, can consider revising boundary to balance students, moving 100 students from River Valley to Central

* 1. **Pay to Ride**

IDOT approves hazard routes and bus transportation determination. Parents may choose to Pay-to-ride if in the areas deemed safe for walk zones.

* 1. **Bus Equipment:** 3-year lease expires 6/30/11.
     1. We have 3 options, without the option to keep any of our existing bus fleet:

#### Owning our own buses

#### Leasing – We will go through a bidding process, called Request for Proposals (‘RFPs’) from 1 to 5 years and can depreciate equipment over 5 years. New leases are expected to cost more because 3 years of fixed pricing and new emission regulations. We can build a maintenance program into the lease.

#### Outsourcing – previously desirable because of excellent reputation of drivers but legislation on outsourcing contracts changed 2 years ago to include benefits in Collective Bargaining Agreement so there is no benefit to outsourcing.

* + 1. Evaluate if we need more or less equipment than existing fleet.
    2. Should we reallocate 72-ride buses (or those with wheel chair lifts) to Pay-to-ride?
  1. **Parent Survey:** Should we conduct a survey after receiving IDOT results? IDOT School Safety Application is due in next 2 weeks with results expected by December 1st.

1. **Homework: School Safety Busing**
   1. **School Safety Busing Handout:** Committee to review before next meeting
   2. **Hazard determination:** Pam and staff to assess routes, conditions, and point factors (measure sidewalks) to present to Committee so best decision is made.
   3. **Research:** Denise to research IL government 42% reduction on IDOT.
2. **Other Items to be Considered**
   1. **Snacks:** Pam, Denise, and Theresa brought popcorn. Okay to bring snacks.
   2. **Keep meetings to 1 ½ hours max**
   3. **Issues or needs, e-mail wcaron@sd113a.org or pmazurek@sd113a.org**
3. **Next Meetings:** 10/28/10; 11/18/10 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

10/2810 Agenda – Start with safety and work through list  
 Routing software demonstration

1. **Adjourn:** 7:50 p.m.