

**Lemont Bromberk Combined School District 113A
Transportation Committee Report
February 14, 2011**

Draft

Committee Members:

Ed Andruszkiewicz	Co-Chair/St. Cyril Parent	Christine McCusker	113A Teacher
Patty Loisi	Co-Chair/113A Parent	David Perczynski	113A Parent
Dan Tully	Lemont Police Department	Mary Smith	113A Parent
Amy McDermott	St. Cyril	Krystyna Dzimira	113A Parent
Sue Cesario	St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick	Judy Bronner	113A Parent
Diane Chaps	113A Support Staff	Nathan Thomas	113A Parent
Maureen O'Neil	113A Support Staff	Louis Emery	113A Parent
Cyndi Picciola	113A Teacher	Denice Kraft	113A Bus Driver/Parent
Daralyn Duffy	113A Teacher	Theresa Vejvoda	113A Bus Driver/Parent
Sonya Raymond	113A Teacher	Pam Mazurek	Administrative Facilitator
Sharon Bingen	113A Teacher	William Caron	Administrative Facilitator
Maureen Consola	113A Teacher		

Background

According to the Illinois School Code the District is to provide transportation for all students, public and non-public, to and from school that live further than 1 ½ miles walking distance from their school to their home. The District is partially reimbursed by the State of Illinois according to the School Code. Transportation of students that live within 1 ½ miles walking distance from their school, yet would walk along a route deemed hazardous according to the school code, is reimbursable by the State.

Committee Work:

The Transportation Committee began its work in September with the following charge:

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

The work of the committee has included a review of the district's hazardous routes, a study of the previous committee work, an in-service overview of the Versa-Tran routing software used by the transportation department, and dialogue with members of the committee pertaining to transportation. We reviewed an adopted the "Standards for Transportation" as presented below:

- Best interests for the children
- Supports educational goals
- Economical/affordable
- Efficient
- Easily implemented
- Equitable – ex: what happens for one neighborhood has to be same for others
- Legal
- Defendable/Supportive
- Evaluated and accountable
- Practical/Reasonable/Realistic
- Justifiable
- Track record/proven success
- Flexible
- Industry practices and best practices

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One of the major initiatives of the committee was to review the hazardous routes as defined by the Illinois Department of Education. Each route is given a numerical value based on guidelines provided by IDOT. There are four basic types of hazards which pupils walking to school encounter:

1. Walking along a roadway
2. Walking on a roadway
3. Crossing a roadway and
4. Crossing railroad tracks

The guidelines address each of these four types of hazards. Using these guidelines, the committee reviewed 24 hazardous routes and determined that six no longer meet the guidelines defined by IDOT. Eighteen remained as hazardous routes. The following routes are no longer considered hazardous and do not qualify for reimbursement from the State:

- 127th Street Covington Drive to Hillview
- State Street Keepataw to 1011 State Street
- State Street 132nd to 127th

The following routes are no longer to be evaluated annually as hazardous routes yet these routes remain eligible for reimbursement from the State:

- Lemont Rd Bluff to 109th
- Lemont Rd Hillcrest Rd to 109th
- Lemont Rd Deerpath to 109th

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the work of the Transportation Committee, we recommend that the areas which do not qualify for reimbursement from the state as the walking route is no longer a hazardous route, no longer receive transportation to District 113A schools.

This recommendation will affect approximately 220 students at Oakwood and River Valley Schools, primarily from the Covington Knolls and Abbey Oaks subdivisions, 35 students from Old Quarry Middle School in the Timberline subdivision, with a few students along State Street for Old Quarry, south of 127th Street on the west side of State Street and for Oakwood and River Valley Schools, north of 127th Street on the east side of State Street.

Elimination of these routes would save the district approximately \$123,000.

Future consideration and Committee work:

The committee understands there may be some reconfiguration of the district and may have to continue to work on other recommendations. Thereafter, the committee also understands the implication to campus traffic and the community by implementing this recommendation and requests approval to work with the school administration and village to develop safe alternatives for the students affected.