

September 3, 2024

Update on Transportation Audit

Third week of June - State Trooper Skelley arrived to begin a transportation audit due to a call with a complaint of a community member regarding the safety of busses.

- 3 busses grounded, all busses out of compliance due to inspection that was not done in March

- June 25, 2024 had a conversation with Trooper Hildreth to discuss status of the audit

He indicated the following

- I was asked what the district planned to do for fall transportation - I indicated we were speaking with the board about the potential of contracting our transportation for the coming school year. He highly recommended that given the state of our current transportation situation. With 3 buses grounded if we were to go to contracted service he would not do any further audit. If we were to try to run transportation in house, he would have to continue the audit and they were in the middle of rostering and would not get to any further audit until rostering was done. He felt given the shape of the department (bus maintenance, documentation of training, and rostering he could not guarantee that we would be able to be up and running for the fall.
- Drivers were not rostered last year and cannot be rostered this year until an audit is completed
- We discussed the repercussions for drivers and he recommended that they make sure their CDL's were updated, all training necessary was completed and their school bus certificate was up to date.
- In accurate training records with missing certificates of CPR training put drivers in a position where they could not renew
- Trooper could not guarantee that he would be able to get us audited and rostered for the start of the school year

June 25, 2024

- Learned that drivers had not been rostered during the FY 23-24 school year, and because we did not have accurate training records they could not be rostered for the upcoming year until another 10 hrs. of training occurred.
- No drivers were rostered and could drive for summer transportation

Last week in June -

- Contacted two transportation companies, and with the help of our SAU staff we had contracted services for mandated transportation for the summer

July:

- Sent out request for quotes for Fall transportation
- Only one company able to assure us they could get us ready for the fall

RSA 189.6 Student Transportation, EEA: School Board and Superintendent are responsible for assuring transportation is available to Kindergarten through 8th grade Board Policy

Basic Concerns of busses:

- All busses were not inspectable
- All busses had issues - currently being serviced so they will become compliant (service being done by First Student)
- Drivers didn't have all their credentials - All have been hired by First Student and able to get credentials current
- Student safety was put at significant risk - brake issues on at least three busses not sure if more yet
- Put the school district in significant risk for liability
- Further reports of conditions of busses will be reported to us
- Information shared by some has been inaccurate