Dunlap Community Unit School District 323
Board of Education Meeting
Date
November 18, 2026

INFORMATION ITEM

TO: Members of the Board of Education
Dr. Scott Dearman, Superintendent

FROM: Dr. Scott Adreon, Director of Operations & Services

SUBJECT: Transportation Purchases for the 2027-2028 SY

SUMMARY: (Explanation of each and rationale attached)

Two 83-Passenger Buses	$181,510 each	$363,020
One 43-Passenger Bus w/AC	$178,770	$178,770
One Activity Bus	$112,490	$112,490
One District Maintenance Truck		$50,000
Total Request		**$704,280**

2027-28 School Year – Transportation and District Vehicle Request

1. Two (2) 83-Passenger School Buses

We are requesting the purchase of two (2) 83-passenger school buses to help reduce overcrowding and address the increasing number of parent concerns regarding buses reaching capacity on certain routes.

The previous Director of Transportation placed an order for ten (10) buses with a capacity of 70 passengers. The 70-passenger buses have proven to be too small for some of our current routes and do not provide sufficient seating capacity to accommodate all riders comfortably.

With continued residential development and an increase in families throughout several areas of the district, ridership has grown on multiple routes. Purchasing two (2) 83-passenger buses would allow us to increase capacity where it is needed most. Additionally, we could reassign the existing 77-passenger buses to drivers currently operating 70-passenger buses, providing additional seating capacity across multiple routes.

These purchases would help alleviate overcrowding, better accommodate growing ridership, reduce parent concerns and provide greater flexibility in assigning buses as enrollment and housing developments continue to impact transportation needs.

2. One (1) Wheelchair Lift School Bus

We are requesting the purchase of one (1) additional wheelchair lift school bus to accommodate the growing number of students requiring wheelchair transportation.

We are planning for three (3) additional wheelchair riders entering our elementary schools from the preschool program, and elementary wheelchair users moving to the middle and high school levels. Currently, our wheelchair-accessible routes are at capacity, limiting our ability to accommodate additional students while maintaining efficient route times.

Adding another wheelchair lift bus would provide the necessary capacity to serve these students safely and appropriately. It would also allow us to distribute riders more effectively, maintain shorter route times similar to those achieved this school year, and prepare for future changes in student transportation needs.

This purchase is essential to ensuring that we can accommodate all eligible students requiring wheelchair transportation while continuing to provide reliable and efficient service throughout the district.

3. One (1) Activity Bus

We are requesting the purchase of one (1) activity bus to replace our oldest activity bus currently in service.

Activity Bus #7 is a 2011 Collins bus with 115,799 miles. In addition to being the oldest activity bus in our fleet, Collins is no longer in business, making it increasingly difficult to obtain the parts needed for repairs and maintenance. Replacing Activity Bus #7 would also allow us to maintain a more reliable activity bus fleet and reduce the challenges associated with maintaining an older vehicle from a discontinued manufacturer.

Continuing to operate a vehicle of this age and mileage presents ongoing maintenance concerns and creates challenges when repairs are needed. Replacing this bus would improve fleet reliability, reduce the potential for service interruptions and help ensure dependable transportation for district activities and events.

4. One (1) District Maintenance Truck

We are requesting the purchase of one (1) replacement vehicle for our assistant District Maintenance employee.

The employee currently operates a 2009 Chevrolet Suburban with 203,711 miles. The vehicle is experiencing significant rust and has reached an age and mileage at which continued reliability is a concern.

A replacement vehicle is needed to provide our maintenance employee with dependable transportation while traveling throughout the district to address maintenance needs at our facilities and buildings.Replacing this vehicle is a necessary investment in supporting the daily maintenance and operational needs of the district.

Summary of Requested Purchases for the 2027 School Year

- **Two (2) 83-passenger school buses** — Increase seating capacity and reduce overcrowding on routes experiencing growth in ridership.
- **One (1) wheelchair lift school bus** — Accommodate three anticipated additional wheelchair riders and maintain efficient route times.
- **One (1) activity bus** — Replace the oldest activity bus in the fleet, which has high mileage and limited parts availability.
- **One (1) district maintenance truck** — Replace a high-mileage, heavily rusted vehicle used for district maintenance operations.

These requested purchases will help the district address growing transportation demands, accommodate changing student needs, improve fleet reliability and support the safe and efficient operation of district transportation and maintenance services.