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To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent  
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO  
Date: May 15, 2026  
Subject: Student Transportation Contract Extensions

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Just as we updated you last month regarding the renewal, extension and pricing of our food services contract with Quest Foods for next year, we are hereby doing the same for our student transportation contracts with First Student and Sunrise Transportation. We completed a formal bid of regular student transportation services last year, along with our student transportation partners from Downers Grove Elementary School District 58 and Downers Grove High School District 99 (we are part of an informal consortium with them and share buses, routes and scheduling/coordination). We selected First Student as a result of this review and signed a ten year contract, as allowed by law, with five years of locked-in contract escalators (for 2025-26 through 2029-30) and then five years of increases to be negotiated (for 2030-31 through 2034-35). The contract is actually renewed on a year to year basis, based on successful completion of the contract by First Student and agreed upon renewal terms between all parties. The first year of the contract (this year) called for a 4.25% rate increase, with the next four years calling for a 4% rate hike. While we did encounter some bus driver staffing challenges with First Student, particularly in the fall, they have performed well overall and are still clearly the best and most viable option available to provide regular student transportation services for our collective school districts. I have attached the master rate sheet from First Student and you can see all of the various charges related to AM routes, PM routes, Activity routes, Midday routes, Singleton routes, After School Special routes, Class B routes and our Fuel Peg.

Similarly, last year we completed a review, with the help of the SASSED Business Office, to look at our Special Education transportation contract with Sunrise Transportation. As we had been under contract with them for seven years (as of last year), and as a new State law allows us to contract for up to ten years for student transportation services (instead of five, as was previously allowed), we looked at three year extension options with Sunrise, and also entertained proposals from a few other interested carriers. We have been very happy with Sunrise's service and support and decided very quickly to negotiate with them for a three year extension that will take us to our ten year limit (we will then bid out that service, as required by law, in the winter of 2028, for the 2028-29 school year). We negotiated 4% annual contract increases for the next three years and made various other changes to the master contract (primarily as it relates to shared route discount rates). I have attached their 2026-27 master rate sheet for your review as well. If anyone has any questions or needs additional information, please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you.