



Livonia Public Schools

District Services

Date: September 12, 2024

To: Andrea Oquist, Superintendent

From: Phillip Francis, Assistant Superintendent of District Services

Re: Bus Purchase

I would like to discuss a recommendation to purchase six (6) buses at the September 16, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting. We are proposing the purchase of five 30-passenger mini buses and one 18-passenger special needs bus from Holland Bus Company. Attached are quotes for three different bus manufacturers, Holland, Collins, and Thomas. The Blue Bird from Holland is not the lowest dollar amount, but only Holland sells Bluebird buses, which comprise the vast majority of the buses in the district fleet. After discussions with the district's Garage Supervisor, we have concluded it is in the district's best interest to purchase the Blue Bird buses because these are the parts we stock in the garage and the mechanics are very familiar with this manufacturer. We believe having the majority of buses from the same manufacturer can garner some long-term savings in the maintenance of the buses. These buses will replace our oldest buses from 2014. The total cost for this recommended purchase is \$625,675, coming from 2021 Bond funds.

I'd like to take this opportunity to also update you on the status of our bus fleet. As of today, the district owns 94 buses consisting of diesel, gasoline, and propane. They are also a mix of traditional 77-passenger buses, mini buses, and wheelchair buses from model years 2014-2024. Please see the specific breakdowns below.

One final item I'd like to share is the recent price for the three types of fuels. Most recently, the district has paid \$2.21 per gallon for diesel (generally getting 6-8 MPG), \$2.14 per gallon for gasoline (generally getting 5-6 MPG), and \$1.55 per gallon for propane (generally getting 4-5 MPG)

BY TYPE OF BUS:

51 traditional 77-passenger buses

32 mini buses

11 wheelchair buses

BY MODEL YEAR:

2014: 5 mini buses (note: these will be replaced with 2025 models via the current purchase being proposed)

2016: 6 mini buses

2017: 14 mini buses; 2 traditional; 1 wheelchair

2018: 8 traditional; 3 wheelchair

2019: 9 traditional; 7 mini buses

2020: 4 traditional; 1 wheelchair

2022: 22 traditional

2023: 4 wheelchair buses

2024: 6 traditional; 2 wheelchair

BY FUEL TYPE:

Gasoline: 47

Propane: 28

Diesel: 19

BY BUS TYPE & FUEL TYPE:

Traditional: 10 diesel; 16 gasoline; 25 propane

Mini: 5 diesel; 27 gasoline; 0 propane

Wheelchair: 4 diesel; 4 gasoline; 3 propane

Please include this item on the agenda. Thank you.

Attachment

c: Board of Education

PF/AS