UNITED TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 30

To: Board of Education
From: Janice Roome, Comptroller
CC: Dr. Jay Morrow, Superintendent; Michael Van Belle, Transportation Director
Date: September 8, 2025
Re: Approval of Transportation Software Contract

Background Information
At the August 11 meeting, the board voted to table the request to enter into a contract for transportation software pending additional information. Below are additional details provided in response to the Board's questions.

Administrative Considerations
Student sign in:
The software maps both routes and the stops on those routes. Each student is assigned a route and a stop. (Currently students are assigned to routes only in Skyward.) The software does have the ability for students to sign in when they board the bus, there is an additional cost for a reader and cards. The company's long-term plan is to incorporate sign-in into the tablets to eliminate the readers, but that is not yet available. Either way, implementation of this is difficult as students notoriously do not wear their ID badges. Currently with the software, a list of students assigned to a particular stop will appear on the tablet when that stop is made by the bus. The driver has the ability to tap the tablet to record who is boarding. While we will investigate the feasibility and efficiency of this, it may not be implemented in year one.

Parent app:
One of the two main reasons for purchasing the software is to gain efficiencies in communication with parents and students. The included app gives us the ability to send messages directly to any specific parent/student, stop, route, or the entire district. The app will show a live map of the route, where the bus is along the route, and the estimated time of arrival at each stop. For privacy reasons, the app will only show the route to which the student has been assigned. The data regarding how the bus traversed the route and the times stops were made is archived giving us the ability to answer parent inquiries that arise after the fact.

The app also provides efficiency to our personnel in various offices. We receive phone calls in transportation, the front office, and/or student services on a daily basis. We believe many of these inquiries will be eliminated with parent access to the app or minimized with access to data by district personnel.

Scheduling:
The second item we believe will produce efficiencies for the district is the ability to manage scheduling within the software. The regular morning and afternoon routes account for only approximately 50% of our drivers' time. We run many additional trips daily for special education, vocational education, and athletics and activities. Many of the routes are different each day of the week and may change with little notice due to conflicts with the regular routes. We're constantly trying to balance transporting students near the end of the school day with keeping them in class as long as possible. All of the scheduling of these types of trips and notifications of changes can be done in the software and through the app. Due to the driver shortage, our transportation director is driving every day and is in need of a tool to streamline scheduling tasks and communication.

Training and Safety:
With the shortage of drivers, we are using substitute drivers on a daily basis (including the transportation director and the mechanic). We also currently have three drivers completing training. We believe the routing software provides an excellent tool to help substitutes and new drivers learn new routes and stops and cover them in the most efficient manner. The software also gives them the ability to learn which students are assigned to each stop as discussed above and to recognize and learn the names of the students.

Reimbursement:
Over the past three years, the district has received an average of 25% of expenditures reimbursed by the state.

Fund Source
Transportation Fund

Recommendation
We recommend the Board of Education approve the one-year contract with BusRight for transportation software.