

**To:** Steve Goss, Assistant Superintendent  
**From:** Ric Beers, Transportation Director  
**Date:** January 6, 2010  
**Subject:** Transportation Report to  
The Vicksburg Community School Board

The 2008-2009 school year was a safe and productive year for Vicksburg Transportation. Attached you will find the SE-4094 state report that I submitted in September of last year. So while the 4094 shows a total cost of \$1,321,000, our budget shows \$1,557,000. The state report will never match what our final budget shows; as there are some accounts like fuel and insurance that are listed under transportation that are also used by the maintenance department. Items such as athletics, band and B4K are not claimed on the state report.

As we are already half way through the school year I would like to focus on this year for a moment. We opened up the garage for kindergarten open house again this year. Based on the numbers, it seemed to be well received again this year. We always have excellent driver participation at these events.

I am also pleased to report that our annual state inspection in November resulted in a perfect score. What's impressive about this is that our mechanics only had an hour and a half notice that the inspector was coming. In addition to our 32 buses, Al and Brad are also responsible for 17 maintenance vehicles. So, when I stand before the board and tell you that our fleet is in excellent condition you can rest assured that the fleet is in good hands.

Below is an example of a day in transportation:

- **17 routes high school/middle school- approximately 547 students.**
- **16 elementary routes--approximately 635 students**
- **12 kindergarten routes—171 students picked up and dropped off.**
- **Consortium—57 students transported for EFE/EFA, KAMSC.**
- **7 Special Education Routes—approximately 45 students.**
- **Total Students Transported—1452.**
- **Total Miles—3,000.**

As you may recall, it was typical for us to us to drive in excess of 500,000 miles annually, including athletic, band and other field trips. Last year we drove 445,000 miles. We have driven consistently less over the last three years. Special education routes are at least 30,000 miles less than four years ago, because we purchased a full size bus lift, and the elimination of a route. Two years ago a route was eliminated in the Indian Lake attendance area. This year we were able to eliminate a route in the Tobey attendance area. We have gone to using only one bus each for kindergarten noon pick-up in the Sunset and Tobey attendance area. An additional cost cutting measure this year was the decision to eliminate transportation for most Saturday sports trips.

We have also explored ways to reduce the operational cost of our bus fleet; an example is the cost savings of our mechanics changing our tires instead of a commercial service. So far since July we have saved approximately \$6,000. After Al and Brad's suggestion of using another oil supplier, we will save approximately \$3,000. We will continue to look for additional ways to cut cost.

In closing I would like to add that I am very proud of the entire transportation department staff. Our drivers do a truly outstanding job of making sure their students are safe and work well together making sure everyone is on the right bus. I would like to especially compliment our Tobey attendance area drivers for making the elimination of one route work and making it a smooth transition for their students. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention our administrative assistant in the transportation office; Linda VanderStraaten, is the reason we operate as efficiently as we do in the office. I think it's important for the public to have ready access to our department; because Linda is very flexible with her work hours we are usually available in our office for at least 12 hours a day during the school year. I would also like to add that the building secretaries are very diligent to get us information regarding daily student schedule changes. It takes all of us to make this work.

As always, if any board member has a question about any part of our operations, I would be happy to talk to them at any time.