

Vicksburg Community Schools

Transportation Department

Date: January 27, 2012
To: Steve Goss, Assistant Superintendant
From: Ric Beers, Transportation Director
Subject: Review of 2010-2011 School Year

The challenge for every transportation department is keeping cost down while running their routes in an efficient and safe manner. This year, Vicksburg Transportation travelled 352,968 miles for regular and special education runs; with an additional 28,729 miles for sports (the bulk of our extra miles) as well as band and field trips. The total cost of Vicksburg Community Schools Transportation Department was \$1,548,000. See attached chart.

At the beginning of our 2010-2011 school year, a bus route was eliminated in the Tobey attendance area; this includes secondary and elementary routes. We were able to do this by re-arranging the remaining Tobey routes. Even though a route was eliminated, it did not result in the loss of a driver as she was assigned to an Indian Lake route that was open due to the retirement of a driver.

2010-2011: Additional grant funding of the Michigan Readiness Program (B4K) resulted in an increase of 16 students (32 total). We now transport both morning and afternoon classes.

This school year we have implemented two new software programs, but actually the groundwork for this started last year. The first was the implementation of new routing software, called Versatrans. This program is currently being used county wide for regular education. It is a great program and we expect to use it county wide for special ed. Another program that we started last year and finished this summer is Kronos Timekeeping; while starting with transportation this will eventually be used district wide for all hourly employees.

Last year also saw an excellent state inspection of our fleet, receiving only one yellow tag. Considering that we're basically on the same budget that we were on 10 years ago and the age of our buses, this is a reflection of the commitment both Al Reynolds and Brad Russell have in keeping our fleet in good repair, while finding ways to save money and be more cost effective.

The condition of our bus fleet, while good, is aging. We have a total of 31 buses. There are buses in our fleet that were purchased in 1998. We have one bus that will reach 300,000 miles by year's end. Every year that we defer a bus purchase, it will cost us \$5,000 to \$7,000 more to replace that same bus. Next year, we have to buy a new lift bus. We purchased our last air conditioned lift bus six years ago, the cost was \$67,000; that same bus today will cost us in excess of \$100,000. (See attached list of buses and mileage associated with each one).

McKinney-Vento Homeless Act: Many people are unaware that the McKinney-Vento act passed in 1987. Like so many other state and federal programs, the scope of the program expands into something that many times is unrecognizable from the original intent. (See Karen's attachment). Explain Program and impact to district(s)

In closing, I would like to express appreciation to our parents. Most parents in Vicksburg realize that there is a partnership between them and our school; we see this everyday. An example is the many parents who call daily to let us know when their children are not riding or have a schedule change.

I have many families in the rural areas who allow us to use their driveways or parking lots to turn around in. This saves us time and money. An example that comes to mind; a retired gentleman, watched us drive past his house daily and turn around at the end of his street. He called to offer us his driveway, to use for our official turn around, which we gladly accepted. This saves us two miles a day, which in turn saves fuel and wear and tear on our buses.

For all the parents who help us, help them get their children to school everyday safely, we want to say thank you. It not only makes our job easier, it makes it enjoyable.

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