

June 7, 2017

Beyond Borders Project

There is interest in exploring the option of increasing accessibility for families considering open enrollment to ISD 709 by offering a transportation option. Home to school and school to home transportation is being explored for students from neighboring districts to include Proctor, Hermantown, Wrenshall and Lake Superior.

- In most cases there is additional cost to be considered in terms of miles, labor and wear and tear on equipment. In some cases additional buses would need to be added.
- Of the bordering districts the best potential for attracting students is from Hermantown, Proctor and Lake Superior, based on current experience.
- There is out of district interest in the Immersion program currently offered at Lowell elementary. Grant money may be available to assist in funding transportation outside ISD 709 boundaries.
- Daily and mileage cost for in and out of district – anticipated 2017.18 rates:
 - \$267.55 – 4 hour minimum
 - \$272.56 – 4 – 5 hours
 - \$2.05 – extra charge per mile out of district
- Annual daily bus cost based on 173 days – out of district mileage not included
 - \$46,286.15 – 4 hour minimum
 - \$47,152.88 – 4 – 5 hours
- ISD 709 cost per student for regular transportation – Per MDE SY2015 - \$386.09

OPPORTUNITIES BY DISTRICT

Proctor

- Stowe, MacArthur, Lincoln and Denfeld can be served by adding stops to existing routes.
- Possible collector pickups include downtown Proctor, Zenith Terrace and Boundary Ave and I-35.
- Daily out of district mileage costs vary from approximately \$16 - \$45 per bus.

Hermantown

- Piedmont, Lowell, Lincoln and Denfeld could be served by adding stops to existing routes.
- Possible collector pickups include Maple Grove and Ugstad, Maple Grove and Stebner, Maple Grove and Haines.
- Daily out of district mileage cost vary from \$32.80 to \$41.00 per bus depending on school.

OPPORTUNITIES BY DISTRIC, CONT.

Two Harbors/Lake Superior

- East HS, Ordean East Middle and Lakewood could be served with closer in collector stops – examples could include Knife River and McQuade Rd.
- Daily out of district mileage cost added would vary from \$0.00 to \$65.00 per bus.
- Transportation from Two Harbors would require a dedicated bus to Lester Park or Lakewood and a shared bus between East and Ordean – due to time and distance.
- Dedicated transportation would be much more expensive.

Wrenshall

- Stowe, Lincoln and Denfeld could be served by adding stops to existing routes.
- Possible collector pickups include downtown Wrenshall and along highways 18 and 23.
- Daily out of district mileage costs would be higher at \$82.00 per day.
- There is concern that PM take-home on Stowe runs and AM pickup on Lincoln and Denfeld would require dedicated transportation as time between 1st and second tier is limited.

IMMERSION PROGRAM OUT OF DISTRICT

There is interest in the Ojibwe Immersion program at Lowell by families in the Cloquet area. During school year 2016/17 three Cloquet students have been enrolled in the program, sharing car pool transportation to travel to and from. Other Cloquet area families have shown interest in enrollment for 2017-18. There is possible opportunity for more to follow with possible transportation option.

- Dedicated transportation originating in the Cloquet area with stops along the way to Lowell could be accomplished at a significant cost due to miles and time. Approximate daily bus cost estimated at \$450.00.
- Immersion funding could be available to supplement, for 2017-18 year.
- An express run with collector stops in Cloquet, Scanlon, Esko and Proctor could be established.