

February 9, 2018

To: Michael Cary

From: Michael Johnson

Subj: High School Schedule Change – Transportation

Creating a seven period day by replacing the current high school zero hour is one proposal in the works to lengthen the high school day. The current transportation scheduling in ISD 709 is two-tier with elementary schools in the first tier and secondary schools in the second tier, both AM and PM. Adding a class hour to the front of the high school day would require many additional bus routes in the first tier. Currently there are 37 buses required in the regular transportation of high school students to Denfeld and East:

- Denfeld HS – 9 AM route buses
- East HS – 9 AM East only buses
- East/Ordean – 19 AM combined routes (from rural parts of the district)

Running Regular Ed routes in the first AM tier would allow for some consolidation of routes. All East HS buses would transport East HS students only. Route times could be extended and stops added. Taking these steps could eliminate up to 10 of the 37 routes serving the high schools.

**Cost estimate of contracting 27 additional first tier buses:**

- **27 first tier buses**
- **\$266.50 per bus per day (2017.18 rates)**
- **173 school days**
- **Total estimated cost for one school year - approximately \$1.25 million.**

Currently there are 13 buses required to transport special needs high school students in the first tier:

- Denfeld HS Special Needs – 8 route buses
- East HS Special Needs – 5 route buses (paired with Ordean)

Consolidation of special needs route buses is expected if run in 1<sup>st</sup> tier.

**Cost estimate of adding 10 additional special needs buses as follows:**

- **10 first tier special needs buses**
- **\$266.50 per bus per day (2017.18 rates)**
- **Bus Helpers at \$87.48**
- **173 school days**
- **Total estimated cost for one school year – approximately \$612K**

It should be noted that the pool of available commercial drivers and those interested and/or qualified to be trained to be commercial drivers continues to diminish and is nearing crisis mode. It would be extremely difficult to find and develop drivers to effectively cover these estimated increases.