

## Purchasing a School Bus

### **Background:**

We have an older bus in our fleet that is persistently giving us trouble. The motor has been using antifreeze, and the vehicle is having some drive train issues with the transmission.

The other day the hood broke where it mounts on a bracket to tilt it open. A quote on a new hood (not painted, assembled, etc.) was \$3,250.00 So, after painting and assembly, it will be close to \$4,000.00.

A quote to replace the engine that has been using antifreeze was \$27,542.76. It's also about due for new tires which would be another \$2,400.00.

The bus has 122,000 miles on it. Transportation Director Swenson does not believe it is worth putting that much money into a bus with 122,000 miles. He feels it is just a matter of time before something else goes wrong.

With supply chain issues and manufacturing delays, it is a minimum of 8 months for a new Bluebird. Swenson thinks Thomas has similar issues. He asks the Board to approve specs for the purchase of a new bus now with the understanding the bus will not arrive until next spring.

Specifications appear on the next page.

### **Recommended Action:**

I recommend the board move to approve the purchasing specifications for a new school bus.