

2017-2018 BOARD REPORT

Summer was nice, quiet as Linda and I worked on the preparations for this coming school Year. Al and Bob kept busy trying to keep from overheating while getting the buses ready For school to begin. We had three drivers for summer school and one special ed bus running over The summer. I did receive a couple hints that I may get a resignation. I had interviewed a woman moving Home from Alabama by the name of Robin Elliott. She grew up here in Kalamazoo but moved to Alabama where she married and raised her two children. Robin drove special education in Alabama for 10 years. Robin had many options when she applied for a school bus driving job here in Kalamazoo. I am so thankful she chose to come to Vicksburg.

So Linda and I brainstormed on ways to advertise so we came up with an idea and with the help of Bob we put together signs that we could put in each of the buildings. PICTURE

We held our drivers meeting on August 23 to do our orientation. We had some training and practicing of our student stops, some backing up exercise and proper set up of emergency triangles. PICTURES

We also brought in the Fire Chief and his team to teach first aide and a basic CPR training –PICTURES. We had some good conversations about “what would we do if”. This is always a good exercise to help us think now, while there is not an emergency, so that when there is we are more likely to be calm and prepared to do the right thing in the moment of pressure. We also had the opportunity to simulate a school bus fire where the drivers had to practice an evacuation. We actually had old car seats set up so each driver could use the seat cutters to practice cutting a child out of the car seat in the smoke. Drivers, hopefully, will never have the need to cut a child out of a car seat but if they do, they know exactly how to do it. It was very smokey and they were all surprised at how fast the bus filled with smoke. We really appreciate Tracy McMillan the Fire Chief for bringing his team to help our drivers be better prepared. I look forward to many more opportunities to work with him in emergency preparedness training.

I had an opportunity to experience the ALYCE training last summer at the 2017 MAPT conference. This is a training for all school employees to have a practice drill with acting intruders. In my scenario, it was on a school bus. I was impressed with this team. I was so excited when we as a district have decided to go with the Alice Training. We all pray it never happens to us, but worse case scenario we will all be prepared to do our very best if ever faced with a situation.

We had our very own Taco Bob’s deliver a wonderful lunch. It was a full day with great morale and 100% participation.

Our awesome sign got the attention of Lyndsey Harp who is now driving bus #20 and doing a great job. I had three other applicants at the same time but Lyndsey was the only one that followed through at that time. I hope to catch the attention of other parents that bring their children to school and learn about The opportunity to work for the same school their children attends along with the same calendar.

Also last summer, Erick Renzema agreed to attend the Train the Trainer put on by MAPT. He went and Brought back great ideas and confidence in his training. He said it was a great experience and he got a lot of information for training our drivers better. Erick said that learning to train a driver to be a good school bus driver and Not to just pass the road test was a focus point. That was important to both of us! Erick is doing a great job. He has trained a few but the two that actually finished and road tested passed with excellence! Eric continues to assist me in putting together the best training program we can offer.

We actually started the year having lost six drivers from last year. Becky Glenn, Raeann Dimock, Deb Homan, Tania Dee, Nanette Sperry and Michele Barnebee.

After eliminating a route, this left our department with 5 open routes. So, having a sub driver Norm Mills take one route, then Robin from Alabama filled a route and Denise Morren decided to move back into a full time driver. This left us with two open routes and a part time dispatcher position open to start the year.

We have had a ton of help from our sub drivers, Becki Ruh, Berta Bailey and Pam Ruddick along with Bob Vanderstraaten, Al Reynolds and myself to keep our routes covered. Soon after school began, we successfully got Lyndsey on the road to fill one open route.

Then Cheri Craig came to us, a Vicksburg resident, began training and has been a new sub for us and doing a great job.

In October during the National School Bus Safety week, I had Kathy from Mack's Fire Protection come in to go over fire extinguisher training. It was a great time for the drivers to be refreshed on how to use them properly. Kathy took a few minutes to explain the different kind of fires, she showed us just what it looks like inside an extinguisher and she brought along the fire chief to help simulate different types of fires so the drivers could practice putting them out. Each driver had several opportunities to practice putting out a class A fire which simulated wood-paper-cloth-rubber or plastics. Also the class B flammable liquids & gases. I think the drivers had a good time and I believe it is good to have a opportunity to refresh our thinking skills to better prepare in case of these situations. PICTURES

In November, the drivers decided to participate in the Vicksburg Holiday Parade. Everyone had a great time putting together the "Grinch Bus". We took 3rd place and the drivers decided to sponsor a family with our \$100 winnings.

In January, I heard from Amy Bell, a past driver, and she decided to return. After a little training to refresh her skills she passed her road test and on Jan 31 took the last open route!!

I'm still learning all about my transportation budget. Steve helped me out this year by putting together the sheet in your packet that shows several years so we can compare how we are doing. I was happy to see the savings in the repairs & maintenance and the fuel. If you have some questions, I am sure Steve would be willing to address them.

We finished out the school year putting approximately 287,292 miles for regular education transport, 86,376 for special needs transport and 48,378 for athletic & field trip miles. That completes our year with 422,046 miles on our vehicles. We used nearly 55,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 789 gal gasoline.

	17-18 (unaudited)	16-17	15-16	14-15	13-14
Personnel costs:					
Salaries	677,212	688,385	697,880	634,740	605,351
Benefits	455,673	439,454	397,853	357,394	307,244
Less: Sec 147 inc in benefits	(96,360)	(83,017)	(70,465)	(45,120)	(29,709)
Total personnel costs	1,036,525	1,044,822	1,025,268	947,014	882,886
Repairs and maintenance	80,053	129,771	139,587	85,864	116,262
Fleet insurance	28,575	27,731	22,044	22,634	27,049
Fuel	122,285	100,059	90,480	132,823	196,756
Miscellaneous	15,301	11,148	10,926	5,312	5,979
Total non-comp	246,214	268,709	263,037	246,633	346,046
Total operating expenses	1,282,739	1,313,531	1,288,305	1,193,647	1,228,932
Capital outlay	-	791,085	4,660	-	780,378
Total department cost	1,282,739	2,104,616	1,292,965	1,193,647	2,009,310