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To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: April 18, 2025
Subject: Recommendation to Approve Student Transportation Services Contract

Back in February, the Board of Education approved the financial terms for both our new Regular Education Student Transportation Contract (ten years with First Student) and our proposed Special Education Student Transportation Contract Extension (three years with Sunrise), and directed us to finalize wording for this new Ten Year Contract with First Student. The Board also directed us to continue researching the use of various individual specialized student transportation service providers (like First Alt, American Taxi, EverDriven, etc.) who can assist with specialized McKinney-Vento and Special Education routes that Sunrise or First Student can't accommodate. We expect to enter into informal agreements with some of these specialized service providers and use them, as needed, to assist with our unique McKinney-Vento and Special Education transportation needs. We have been working with First Student over the past few months to finalize the contract wording, and we are presenting the finalized document herein and asking for Board approval.

We have also been working with Brian Crowley at Franczek, LLC (our school district legal counsel) to review the First Student Contract in its entirety to ensure that it meets our needs and that it is appropriate from a legal perspective. The First Student contract, being an entirely new agreement, is obviously more involved (it is actually a new five year contract with the allowance for five additional one-year extensions, covering potentially ten years in total) and it contains several new/revised provisions. The most significant new provision is the allowance for liquidated damages if First Student does not meet some basic performance goals, including running both our regular routes and our after school routes on time, providing video recordings upon request and ensuring the safe transport of our students on a regular/ongoing basis. Additionally, Downers Grove Elementary School District 58 and Downers Grove High School District 99 will each be signing a similar agreement with First Student, as we all share buses and operate as an informal cooperative/consortium to purchase regular student transportation services. As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

memo

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board approve the attached Student Transportation Services Agreement with First Student LLC of Cincinnati, OH, with a terminal and local offices in Westmont, IL, at annual increases of 4.25% for the '25-26 school year, and then 4% increases for the following four school years ('26-27 thru '29-30). Additionally, there is a provision for rates to be negotiated and agreed to in years 6-10 on a year-to-year basis, with the concurrence of both parties. With Board approval of this agreement we will continue planning for the implementation of these services for next year and the development of preliminary bus schedules, bus routes and bus stops for all eligible school district students. This contract is expected to cost about \$2.5M next year and these services are paid for out of the Transportation Fund using a combination of Transportation Fund Tax Levy monies and State of Illinois Mandated Categorical Transportation Reimbursement payments.