

April 9, 2020

Agenda Item: Grant Authority to Enter into First Student MOU Item VH

Purpose of this Agenda Item: Action

The closure of schools which to date has resulted in the suspension of bus services creates a need to revise the transportation contract with First Student. Several districts with contracted bus service met virtually on March 26th. The consensus was to continue to pay for these contracted services using the concept that what was being purchased was the potential for continued service should schools reopen. The idea being that if school were to resume and bus drivers had found other work then it might be difficult to start up transportation services. The contractors agreed to discount the contract amounts.

When Colt Gill signaled on March 30th that schools might not reopen this school year the justification around paying for continuity of services had to be revisited. A second virtual meeting of the districts with contracted bus service on April 2nd was inconclusive.

Molalla River School District is exploring the possibility of delivering meals to bus stops using school buses. A waiver from USDA has opened this door. This would be a limited use of these resources.

The fact that Executive Order 20-08 requires school districts to continue the payment of employees, which would include bus drivers of self-operated districts, makes it challenging to not pay the drivers of contractors like First Student.

The concept of continuing payment of contracted amounts without receiving services during this pandemic has been included in legislation at the state and federal levels.

It is the recommendation of the MRSD administration that the district enter into an MOU with First Student to modify the existing contract. The Administration of MRSD is respectfully requesting that the Superintendent and Business Manager be granted the authority to enter into negotiations for a revised agreement and to execute a corresponding MOU

Respectfully Submitted by: Rick Gill

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Manner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.