



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education and Administration
From: Rob Grossi and Mark Sheahan
Date: May 1, 2020
Re: Regular and Transportation Bids - Recommendation to Approve

We recommend we continue with Lakeview for regular routes, special education in-district routes, field trips, and special education out of district routes, but begin giving some McKinney-Vento and SPED out of district routes to Zum on a case-by-case basis.

Working with counsel and our liability insurance administrator, we prepared three bids: regular transportation, special education in-district transportation, and special education out of district (OOD) transportation.

The bid packets were sent to Lakeview, Cook-Illinois (Grand Prairie), Zum, Inc., and First Student. These same firms attended the mandatory pre-bid. Questions were clarified with counsel and some concessions were made to the vendors, and revised specifications were sent to all vendors. Bids were received by Lakeview, Zum, Inc., and Grand Prairie. Grand Prairie only bid on ten of nineteen of our out of district SPED routes, and their price of \$300 a route was not competitive.

Lakeview was the only responsible bidder for regular transportation. Their price per route is increasing by 7%, rising from \$227.12 to \$243.80. Field trips, athletics, and music shuttles will increase 13%, rising from \$38 an hour to \$43 an hour. Using twenty-eight round trip routes for 176 days, and 500 hours of field trips, we estimate the district's expenditures for regular transportation will increase by approximately \$85,000.

Zum and Lakeview were the only responsible bidders for in-district special education transportation. It is very difficult to come up with an apples-to-apples comparison as Lakeview is a typical yellow school bus company and Zum has a different model. They service schools only, with a first division vehicle model (vehicles holding no more than ten passengers). Zum would have to utilize many vehicles to do what one bus does. Without sitting down with Zum, going over every existing route, and pinning down an exact number, we found it difficult to compare the two vendors. If we use 21.5 routes for both vendors, Zum saves over \$300,000. However, if we add ten more vehicles, the savings disappear. We would have to add far more than ten vehicles. A yellow bus company is better suited for in-district special education.



Lakeview's rate per route for in-district special education transportation, the early childhood routes, and the PKP routes at Longfellow will increase from \$265.98 to \$276, a 3.77% increase. This will cost the district approximately \$48,497 more.

The out-of-district special education transportation was very difficult to compare. Zum has calculated and we have verified they will save us over \$200,000 if we give them all routes. However, our Special Education team has expressed concerns about using Zum, and a strong preference to stay with Lakeview for continuity, especially in this COVID-era. We believe we have reached a compromise with the Special Education Department to award existing routes to Lakeview and begin using Zum for new routes. For example, there is one route First Student currently has that we will award to Zum. If we get a new McKinney-Vento student or are sending a student to a different non-public school, we can get a quote from Zum and the Special Education department can determine which company is better for that student. For routes over 30 miles, there is no question that Zum will save the district money. This way, three years from now, if Zum is the low bidder again, the Special Education Department will have had experience with them.

We took the current cost of one vehicle and one attendant going to each of the fourteen non-public facilities listed on the March 2019 invoices. Lakeview's prices actually decline by 8.7%. It will save us about \$76,000 using 176 days. Because these routes change often, and that sometimes Lakeview accommodates us by sharing costs with River Forest, it is difficult to give more exact numbers. Every year is different, and how we start the year is not how we end the year as students and IEP's change.

To summarize:

	20-21	21-22	22-23
Regular routes	7%	4.18%	4.72%
SPED In-district, ECP, PKP	3.77%	2.9%	3.17%
SPED out of district	-8.7%	4.2%	3.28%
Field trips hourly	13%	4.65%	6.67%

If you have any questions or desire any additional information or clarity, please contact Dr. Kelley and I will respond accordingly.