



# CHELSEA

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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### Memorandum

To: Michael Kapolka, Superintendent  
From: Corrina Horton, Transportation Supervisor  
Subject: Recommendation to Purchase Off-Lease School Buses  
Date: July 1, 2025

Mr. Kapolka,

Based on the bids received for the purchase of off-lease buses, I recommend the following purchases from Holland Bus Company.

Units: F523512 & F523515 for the amount of \$67,805.00 ea.  
F523511 & F523513 for the amount of \$69,532.00 ea. (newer tires as of April 2025)

The total purchase price for these four buses is **\$274,674.00**. This purchase will be covered with bond funds. This purchase is both necessary and strategic due to the increasing cost and logistical strain of maintaining our aging fleet.

We currently have eight buses of the same age experiencing recurring mechanical and operational issues, resulting in higher repair costs, frequent service interruptions, and a growing drain on resources. The need to keep these buses roadworthy has become financially and operationally unsustainable.

By purchasing these four off-lease buses, which still carry remaining manufacturer warranty coverage, we can immediately cut our problem fleet in half. These newer buses will improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and help ensure consistent transportation service for our students.

I have personally had the opportunity to inspect one of these buses and discuss at length the build quality and condition we can expect from this purchase. I am confident that these vehicles meet our district's standards for safety, functionality, and durability. Additionally, Holland Bus Company, the seller, is fully aware that each bus will go through a meticulous inspection by our head mechanic before we accept ownership, ensuring we receive only buses that meet our performance and safety expectations.

This acquisition will also allow us to return to a more manageable and fiscally responsible replacement cycle. Instead of facing a mass fleet turnover, we can gradually phase out older units and replace them on a more predictable, planned schedule.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend proceeding with the purchase of the four off-lease buses as detailed in the attached documentation.

Respectfully,

Corrina Horton  
Transportation Supervisor