



MINUTES

Indiana State School Bus Committee

December 3, 2013

The Indiana State School Bus Committee met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at the Department of Education office in Indianapolis, Indiana with the following members in attendance.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Baxter – Chairman
Dwayne Vandiver – Sch. Trans. Assoc. of Ind.
Dr. Joseph O’Neil – Governor’s Council on
Impaired & Dangerous Drivers
James Hanna – Pub. Sch. Superintendent

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Claudia Koerner – Ind. Dept. of Revenue
Assoc.
Shannon Dickson – BMV
Ron Chew – Ind. Assoc. of School Bus Drivers
Carl Brown – Indiana School for the Deaf &
Indiana School for the Blind
Joey Dallas – Ind. School Boards Assoc.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sgt. Chris Kath – ISP
Clifford Zehr – Ind. Assoc. of Sch. Bus
Dist.
John Perkins – IASBO

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kent McDaniel – Ind. Trans. Assoc.
Mark Clawson – Ind. Twnshp. Assoc.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Carrie Duthie called roll. Seven guests were present:

Gary Clevenger
Donna Nielson
Terry Busse
John Barrington
Dennis Wiger
Jim Harra
Roni Embry

IDOE
LaPorte Community Schools
LaPorte Community Schools
MacAllister
MidWest Transit Equipment
IAPSS
ISTA

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The Committee asked Mr. LaRocco to address missing Committee members on an agency basis to increase meeting attendance by members. If voting members are not able to be present for a scheduled meeting, it is requested they contact Mr. LaRocco to be sure a voting quorum will be attending.

The September 3 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Hanna moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Dr. O'Neil seconded the motion to approve; motion carried.

Introduction

Mr. Pete Baxter was introduced as the new Committee Chairman appointed by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mrs. Ritz.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

LaPorte Community School Corporation Trespassing Decal Request – Terry Busse and Donna Neilson presented a request to the Committee to allow the addition of a NO TRESPASSING sign to be displayed on the exterior of the school bus next to the service door. She requested the signage be approximately 8” x 10” in size and tri colored with red, white and black. Currently, No Trespassing decals are allowed on the interior step risers. Ms Neilson provided examples of signage used in other states. Roni Embry of the ISTA spoke in favor of the exterior signage in stating that the state wide cost to add the signage would be \$161,000 or close to 6 cents per student. Mr. Baxter asked Mr. LaRocco to make a recommendation to the Committee for vote at a later meeting. Members can send comments to Mr. LaRocco for inclusion in the recommendation up to January 6, 2014.

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2014 – Meeting dates for 2014 were presented as March 4, June 3, September 2 and December 2. The Committee voiced approval of the dates.

Specification changes

The specification documents were provided to the State Budget Agency on November 20. January 15 is the deadline for the BSA to return their determination. The public hearing cannot take place until the SBA has approved the specifications as presented.

Bus Specifications

Color – Special Purpose Bus – 575 IAC 1-9-16 lists MFSABs as exempt from standard then the standard lists what they can have. Mr. LaRocco is requested to offer proposed language to improve the intent and understanding of the specification. Changes to current specifications can be made through the public hearing. Language to address the issue of vinyl wraps should also be included.

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Noise Suppression Switch – specifications include the switch shall include 2-way radios. Now switch does not include 2-way radios on Type A. See 575 IAC 1-9-56 to remove section b language with an effective date for older buses.

Vinyl Wrap – Trinity Lutheran Schools - The request to fully wrap the schools MFSABs was denied by the Committee in the September 3 meeting as presented by the school due to the windows being covered with vinyl. The Committee offered to reconsider the submittal if they provided graphics without window covering and all required signage to be visible. The school has declined to resubmit.

Committee Binders

Carrie Duthie asked the Committee if the format of the member binders could be revised to include the current year and one previous year instead of the current format with several years' worth of data in each binder. One master binder with all information would be available for reference at all meetings. After discussion, it was agreed to move to the new binder format beginning in 2014.

Vin and Year – Bus Inspection

Sgt. Kath addressed the issue of bus vin year and date of manufacture with the Committee. Currently a bus will have a vin date and a vehicle manuf year date that are different. This influences the date a bus will qualify for semi-annual inspections at age 12. The ISP is clarifying that their database will include date manufactured and vehicle (vin) year. The date manufactured will be the date used for inspection purposes.

Office of School Transportation Update

Mr. LaRocco is working with the legislative group to update the Title 20 Physical so that authorizing authority can be granted to Physicians, Physicians Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners so that this physicals authorizing authority matches the CDL physical.

As of today, 94% of the certified school bus drivers have completed their Annual Safety Meeting training to renew their certification for 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

Recall Notices

Recall Notices for FL643, FL643A, FL647 and FL647A were shared with the Committee

Mr. Baxter asked Sgt. Kath if the ISP database could be used to identify and track recall data. There is a need to find ways to identify bus owners that are not the original purchasing owner of the bus. Mr. Barrington advised the Committee that NITSA tracks complaint data on all recalls.

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Certification Notice

IC Certification Letter was shared with the Committee

Blue Bird Certification Letter was shared with the Committee

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March , 2014 at the Department of Education in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Without further business to discuss, Dr. O'Neil made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vandiver; motion carried.

Chairman

Secretary

Date