



MINUTES

Indiana State School Bus Committee

March 5, 2013

The Indiana State School Bus Committee met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at the Department of Education office in Indianapolis, Indiana with the following members in attendance.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Danny Libs – Chairman
Joey Dallas – Ind. School Boards Assoc.
Ron Chew – Ind. Assoc. of School Bus Drivers
Dwayne Vandiver – Sch. Trans. Assoc. of Ind.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Perkins – IASBO
Sr. Trooper Chris Kath – ISP
Clifford Zehr – Ind. Assoc. of Sch. Bus
Dist.
Kent McDaniel – Ind. Trans. Assoc.

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Claudia Koerner – Ind. Dept. of Revenue
Assoc.
Dr. Joseph O’Neil – Governor’s Council on
Impaired & Dangerous Drivers
Carl Brown – Indiana School for the Deaf &
Indiana School for the Blind
Dr. Robert Taylor – Pub. Sch. Superintendent
Shannon Dickson – BMV

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Clawson – Ind. Twnshp. Assoc.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Carrie Duthie called roll. Eight guests were present; Eric LaRocco, Student; Matt Matthews with Blue Bird Body Co, Denis Wiger with Midwest Transit Equipment, Robert Bihn with Unity, Nicolas page with MacAllister Power Systems, Cheryl Wolfe, Consultant; David Chapman and Don Batchelor with Marion Community Schools.

The December 4 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Dallas moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Vandiver seconded the motion to approve; motion carried.

Items of Action

Mr. LaRocco introduced Sr. Trooper Chris Kath as the new member representing the Indiana State Police as a replacement for Sgt. Steve Whitaker who was reassigned to the Governor’s security detail.

The Electronic Meeting Policy was reviewed and discussed. This policy would allow members to participate in a meeting via electronic technology. This change is allowed through Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-3.6 effective January 1, 2013. Mr. Perkins asked for clarification of Policy item

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3. At least five (5) members of the ISSBC must be physically present at the designated meeting site on the date of the scheduled meeting.

Mr Perkins asked if the members needed to be physically present or electronically present to meet the policy. Mr. LaRocco will address this query with the Staff Attorney and advise the Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Vandiver moved to accept the policy as written, motion seconded by Mr. Dallas. Roll vote was taken – motion passed 4 – 0.

David Chapman of Marion Community Schools addressed the Committee on their request to host a pilot program in using Guardian Angel School Bus Lights on a test group of buses. The Committee viewed a video on the application, installation and use of the lighting system. The system consists of two separate lighting components; alternating strobe lights in the grill area of the bus and a high-intensity flood light to illuminate the walking area in front of the bus for children required to cross the street to board the bus. The Committee agreed to the following parameters for the pilot program:

1. the grill mounted strobe light system not be included in the scope of this pilot program,
2. mounting options to be included
 - a. standard mounting
 - b. under bumper
 - c. side of bumper
 - d. other as deemed appropriate
3. the addition of two (2) bolts to secure and insure no movement of the mounting bracket,
4. the driver will activate the lighting system as a signal for crossing children it is safe to cross,
5. the system will be used for crossing children pick up only,
6. the system will be used for dark hour pick up only,
7. the duration of the program will be one (1) year,
8. maximum of four (4) buses to be used in the program,
9. track mileage or other form of usage,
10. Marion Community Schools will provide a copy of the policy used in the operation of the lighting systems by their bus drivers,
11. bus driver will keep a log of issues for each test pool bus,
12. a complete report of the pilot program will be presented to the Committee at the first regular meeting of 2014.

Mr. Dallas moved to approve the pilot program as defined in the minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Vandiver. Roll vote was taken – motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. LaRocco provided a thorough review of the proposed school bus specifications. Ms Wolfe provided insight into the specifications dealing with school buses for the transportation of special needs children and pre-school aged children. The Committee agreed to extend the implementation of new specification for the transportation of pre-school aged children as: “A child below the grade of kindergarten shall be transported in a child safety restraint system that meets all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards beginning January 1, 2018.” Due to the financial impact of this specification on school districts, Mr. LaRocco will conduct a financial impact study.

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The public hearing for the Proposed Language for the School Bus Specifications will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at 8am at the Indiana Department of Education, Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. LaRocco will administer all pre-hearing requirements.

Mr. Chew moved to approve the school bus specifications as admended, motion seconded by Mr. Vandiver. Roll vote was taken – motion passed 4 – 0.

Correspondence

None

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at the Department of Education in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Without further business to discuss, Mr. Dallas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vandiver; motion carried.

Chairman

Secretary

Date