



MINUTES

Indiana State School Bus Committee

March 4, 2014

The Indiana State School Bus Committee met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 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
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.

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

COMMITTEE SECRETARY PRESENT:

Carrie Duthie - IDOE

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Clawson – Ind. Twnshp. Assoc.

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION PRESENT:**

Mike LaRocco – Office of school
Transportation

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

Kristie Andersen
Kelly Bauder
Robert Bihn
David Chapman
Don Batchelor
Gary Clevenger

IDOE
IDOE
Unity School Bus Parts
Marion Community Schools
Marion Community Schools
IDOE

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The December 3, 2013, meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Brown moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Vandiver seconded the motion to approve; motion carried.

ITEMS OF ACTION

LaPorte Community School Corporation Trespassing Decal Request – At the December meeting, 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. The Committee discussed the issue and Dr. O’Neil moved to allow the addition of exterior signage and the language as submitted by Mike LaRocco, Mr. Dallas seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken and the motion was defeated. Mr. LaRocco will notify the school district of the Committee’s decision.

Seat Belt Instruction and Bus Evacuation Rule – Kristie Andersen, IDOE legal counsel, advised the Committee about the rule promulgation process for this issue. She recommended the Committee keep the rule as 1 rule addressing both seat belt instruction and bus evacuation rather than breaking it into two rules. Mr. LaRocco presented the Committee with a draft of the rule LSA Document #13-541 for Section 1. 575 1-10-1 and 1-10-2. The Committee requested revising wording of 575 IAC 1-10-2 Sec 2(b) 2 to clarify sixty (60) school days. Dr. Hannah moved to accept the language as changed, Mr. Vandiver seconded the motion. A verbal vote showed the motion passed. Dr. O’Neil offered to consult on special needs evacuation for any district or organization that may need assistance.

WiFi Pilot Program – MSD Washington Township requested to participate in a school bus WiFi Pilot Program. The use of mobile WiFi is allowed in the updated school bus specification, however allowing MSD Washington Township to conduct a pilot program will allow them to install the equipment and program in advance of the adoption of the new specifications. The Committee allowed Kokomo Center Township Consolidated Schools to initiate a pilot WiFi program last year. Kokomo has not reported back to the Committee on the results of the pilot program. Mr. Chew moved to allow MSD Washington Township to participate in a WiFi pilot program as presented to the Committee, Mr. Brown seconds the motion. The motion carries with a verbal vote.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Marion Community Schools Report on Guardian Angel Light pilot program - David Chapman presented the Committee with the results of using the Guardian Angel Lights on 5 school buses. The Committee viewed the sales video of how the lights are designed to work as well as a video from Marion Community Schools showing the installed lights and wiring system as well as interviews with bus drivers that are using the lights on routes. The Committee

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discussed the use and mounting of the lights. Mr. LaRocco will draw up a proposal for consideration of the committee.

Specification changes

The specification documents were provided to the State Budget Agency on November 20. The SBA has not released its determination as of the date of this meeting. 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.

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.

Trailer Hitch – 575 IAC 1-9-34 (d) . Sgt Kath recommended changing this spec to read “Trailer hitch is not permitted” This will be included in the final language of the specifications.

Office of School Transportation Update

Mr. LaRocco provided information on updates and changes with the Office of School Transportation

Legislative Update - review of all current legislation under consideration.

DOE Online – The website portal is being updated to include the Seat Belt and School Bus Evacuation notifications as well as the ability for school districts to print their own Certificate of Enrollment (blue card) and Standard Certificates (yellow cards). Additionally, the Certificate of Enrollment (blue card) will be valid for 1 year without the option for an extension. The updates are on schedule to be implemented this summer.

CDL Information – Beginning May 21, 2014, CDL physicals will ONLY be available at locations listed on the National Registry for Medical Examiners. As of January 30, 2015, CDL drivers will not be required to carry the hard copy of their Medical Examiners Report. The physical will be electronically available to police officers on their computers.

Indiana State School Bus Committee

CORRESPONDENCE

NTSB School Bus Seat Pan Attachment – determination on injury caused by a seat pan becoming dislodged.

Shannon Dickson’s Committee appointment letter

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at the Department of Education in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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

Chairman

Secretary

Date