



**MINUTES**  
**Indiana State School Bus Committee**  
**March 7, 2017**

The Indiana State School Bus Committee met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at Indiana Department of Education, Indianapolis, Indiana with the following members in attendance:

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pete Baxter – Chairman  
Ron Chew – Ind. Assoc. of School Bus Drivers  
Dr. James Hanna – Pub. Sch. Superintendent  
Carl Brown – Indiana School for the Deaf &  
Indiana School for the Blind  
Dwayne Vandiver – Sch. Trans. Assoc. of Ind.  
Terry Butler – Ind. School Boards Assoc.  
Dr. Joseph O’Neil – Governor’s Council on  
Impaired & Dangerous Drivers

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Melissa Lechner – BMV  
Claudia Koerner – Ind. Dept. of Revenue

**COMMITTEE SECRETARY PRESENT:**

Carrie Glisson –IDOE

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sgt. Chris Kath – ISP  
Clifford Zehr – Ind. Assoc. of Sch. Bus  
Dist. – Represented by Kelly Moore  
Todd Edwards – Ind. Trans. Assoc.  
Rick Allen – IASBO

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mark Clawson – Ind. Twnshp. Assoc.

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION PRESENT:**

Mike LaRocco – Office of school  
Transportation

Mr. Baxter called the committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum of voting members was present for voting purposes.

One guest was present: Terry Darr – Kerlin Bus Sales

New member, Terry Butler, representing the Indiana School Boards Association, was introduced to the Committee.

**Approval of Minutes**

The December 6, 2016, meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Chew moved to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Hanna seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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**ITEMS OF ACTION**

**Notice of Intent for Rulemaking –**

Seat Belt Cutter - Initial language for revisions to the Seat Belt Cutter location and fastening methods were discussed and a final draft was approved by vote. Mr. Baxter requested Mr. LaRocco research strength standards for hook and loop fastener systems for options in securing the belt cutters.

Rear Lights – Initial language was discussed for optional equipment permitting an additional set of back-up lamps and brake lamps with specific location allowances. Committee draft was approved by vote.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

**Legislative Update** – Mike LaRocco reviewed the current status of bills concerning student transportation. Only 2 bills are still alive: HB 1507 and SB 97.

**Thomas – Mercedes block heater cables** – Sgt. Kath reviewed two recent bus fires; one fire originated in the battery compartment area and the other was related to the block heater. Bus inspectors have been informed so they can educate their school districts and provide better scrutiny in inspecting these areas.

**Yellow Card Revocation** – Mike informed the Committee of a possible yellow card revocation for a driver in New Castle, Indiana.

**Wheelchair Securement** – Dr. O’Neil discussed the variances in requirements for wheelchair securement for WC18 and WC19 wheelchair specifications. Current spec calls for additional restraints for chairs in excess of 250 pounds. Bud Fears of Q’Strait informed the Committee in December 2016, of changes between WC18 and WC 19 specs. The Committee determined to keep the current standard of using 4 tie downs for chairs in excess of 250 pounds.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Required specification certification letters have been received from all manufacturers except Lion Bus.

Recall notice FL713AB December 2016 – Thomas Emergency and Non-Emergency Door Handle stems.

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The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at the Indiana Department of Education, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Pete Baxter adjourned the meeting.

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Chairman

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Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date