

Regional School District 14 Facilities/Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2011

A Meeting of the Regional School District 14 Facilities/Transportation Committee was held on Monday, March 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Nonnewaug High School Library, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present: Committee Chair George Bauer, Committee and Board members Stephen Sordi, Scott Baider, Gary Suslavich, Interim Director of Finance and Operations Ed Arum, and Interim Superintendent Dr. Greg Little.

Also present: Manager of buildings and grounds, Mr. Mike Molzon, Board Member Mrs. Deborah Corsico, Director of Special Services Mrs. Kim Culkin, and Principals Mrs. MaryLou Torre and Mrs. Melinda McKenna.

The following topics were discussed.

1. Mr. Arum presented proposed school start/end times for all grades in the school year 2011-2012.
  - a. Although the times will be reviewed by the planning committee, the purpose of the discussion was in regards to transportation timing for the students and programs. Mr. Arum stated he reviewed the bus routes for the K-5 configuration elementary, middle school, and high school with the bus company and the proposed times are adequate for transportation. Mr. Arum also noted with the proposed school day, additional contact time for the students with teachers is achieved in the proposed schedule.
2. Two configurations of the Northern Woodbury Boundary Line were proposed.
  - a. This geographical line defines which students residing in northern Woodbury will go to Bethlehem elementary school. Option one was proposed as the original boundary line as defined in the 2005-2006 school year. Option two was proposed as the original boundary line plus some additional northern Woodbury streets.
  - b. Both configurations of enrollment distribution and proposed teachers were reviewed and discussed. Bus routes for both configurations were acceptable by the bus company. One minor location for bus turnaround is still in review. Looking towards future student accommodations, the current enrollment study by Dr. Prowda is showing enrollment decline in upcoming years.
  - c. Mr. Arum proposed adopting option one as the original boundary line as for consideration of the townspeople who established residence with the knowledge of the historical line.
  - d. Dr. Little reviewed enrollment numbers noting that class sizes of either configuration are fair and equitable. He also suggested that it is unusual to have an "application" for parents to request a different school in regards to the boundary line. He recommended against establishing an application process and let the administration enforce the line.
3. Bus contract review
  - a. Mr. Arum noted that compliance with the current busing contract is under review. Currently he is reviewing the ages of the buses in use for the region as well as mandated frequency of state inspections.
4. Special Education transportation bidding procedures
  - a. Mr. Arum is in-work to solicit multi-year contracts for special education bus routes. This can potentially save money and specific routes will be reviewed for all bidding companies. Options will also be identified with other districts for co-transportation and the intention to be included in language of proposed contracts.
5. Review of building committee members 's next steps
  - a. A proposed building committee is planning to assemble. The region has three past building committee members as well as five new volunteers to participate. Mr. Bauer, Mr. Sordi, and Mr. Arum will be meeting with the new proposed members to provide information and review commitment. The next step will be to meet with the previous architect and review past proposals for buildings and grounds. Also, the full board will charge the building committee with scope and goals and the new building committee will be appointed.

Public Comment:

**Deborah Corsico** recommended utilizing Option two, the new northern Woodbury line so as to level the student load amongst our elementary schools. With the population growing a bit faster in Woodbury, the proposed distribution of students utilizes our facilities more proportionately.

**Jeanne Hawley** recommended Option two as well because that configuration was proposed in the 10-47c report, which was recently voted at referendum, and adopting that line would be fair to the voters.

**Eileen Budrewicz** also recommended Option two as to the more level distribution of class size across grades between BES and MES.

**John Chapman** recognized the distribution of students per grade is, on average, more level with the new northern Woodbury line option 2. He also noted that reducing a teacher in Mitchell will still have class sizes within board guidelines and make the class sizes between BES and MES more evenly distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*George Bauer*

Facilities/Transportation Committee Chair  
Region 14 Board of Education