

Stow-Munroe Falls City School District Transportation Committee Progress Report

In response to documented problems relating to the district's transportation rollout for the 2019-20 school year, on August 26, 2019, the Board of Education unanimously created a committee tasked with identifying problems which led to the problems, finding immediate solutions to those problems, and enacting preventative measures to thwart these issues going forward.

As promised when the committee was formed, a full report on the committee's identification of issues, investigation of those issues, and the conclusions it reached, will be presented at the October 7, 2019 board meeting. However, the committee recognizes the need to provide updates to the community on its progress.

The committee first met at 8 AM on August 28, 2019 and established its scope. It will:

1. Identify and define the scope of the problems and concerns;
2. Categorize those issues as immediate, short-term, or long-term (institutional);
3. Establish potential solutions and discuss possible allocation of additional resources; and,
4. Explain to the community, in detail, the committee's processes.

After the first meeting, significant progress was made. Some highlights include:

1. Transportation Supervisor Hollis personally examined all bus routes for Holy Family School, and they were immediately changed to shorten the students' bus rides and ensure they consistently arrive at school on time.
2. Ms. Hollis, accompanied by Board Member Whitacre, personally drove a full-size district bus to an area of concern to determine the safety and feasibility of an in-neighborhood turnaround.
3. District personnel in transportation and central office, as well as Mr. Whitacre and Board Vice President Licate, continued to review and respond to family concerns, and audit stop or route objections by hand.
4. The transportation garage continues to receive support from district personnel, including Classified Union President Hunter, who has worked in tandem with Ms. Hollis in adjusting routes and stops.
5. Our drivers have shown great flexibility in accommodating changes to their routes, and Ms. Hollis is working with drivers to minimize mistakes on each of these new routes and stops.

The committee met again on September 4, 2019 at 8 AM. There, the committee continued its discussion, and specified additional goals:

1. Child safety protocols are being reviewed, will be shared with the district's Safety Committee, which includes our community's first responders, for input, and all affected personnel will receive retraining and recertify their receipt and understanding of those protocols.
2. In addition to a full investigative report, the committee is working diligently to identify institutional issues and will recommend to the full board of education that the district allocate appropriate resources to technological, equipment, and software upgrades to fully address the community's valid concerns over district transportation.

The committee's next meeting is set for September 16, 2019 at 11:30 AM.