SAU #23 & BMU Busing Committee Meeting

BMU Library 6:00 p.m.

October 9, 2012

Minutes

Present:  Bruce Labs, SAU Superintendent
Rich Pike, BMU Superintendent
Ron Phillips, BMU Board member
Brenda Powers, BMU Board member
Angie Bemis, Bath Board member
Pat Amsden, SAU Financial Manager
Don Bagley, SAU & Warren Board member
Krista Davis, Butler Bus
Lori Blood, BMU Business Manager
Angelina Alley, BMU Board member
Jay Waterhouse, Haverhill Board member (arrived late)

Meeting began at 6:15 p.m.

Introduction of all present

Rich Pike reviewed the history of the busing collaboration between SAU #23 and BMU. All agreed it seemed to be working to save money. We are in the completion of the second multiyear contract.

Pike stated we need to have the hard numbers to be able to discuss particulars at the next meeting on October 29, 2012.

Jay Waterhouse, Haverhill Board member arrived.

Pat Amsden stated that SAU 23 and BMU share the cost of three buses that work both sides of the river. Both sides agreed that this was cost effective and working.

Bruce Labs said that in lieu of having Emo Chynoweth, Vice President of Butler Bus, at the meeting to answer specifics he would like to get information and gather questions from all present. Labs said busing has improved greatly with using Butler over First Student. We have received very few parental calls.

Pike stated that the only small issue would be the scheduling piece. They are not in a position to add a separate run – not a viable option due to cost.
Unscheduled early release only issue, most delayed openings, weather closures are in sync. Communication on storm days has been excellent between BMU, SAU 23 & Butler.

Krista Burns added that she was glad that when she called either district there was someone there to answer her.

Labs reported that Bath district was concerned with the cost of busing and questioned if there are other cost effective options.

Angie Bemis added that it is the biggest concern for the Bath tax payers. Wonders if Bath can do it for less if done on our own like Warren?

Don Bagley stated that to do what Warren is doing will not cost any less money.

Bemis still wants to have both options, Bath in the collaborative contract and on their own contract, to show taxpayers, also asked if the Lisbon bus for Bath should be included in the contract.

Bath pays to transport Bath students whether to WHS or Lisbon. Lisbon bus cost an extra $37,000 per year for approximately 3 students.

Need the cost numbers to have some idea of their busing options for the next meeting.

Davis said that Emo would price it both ways, with and without Bath in the busing collaborative.

Bagley said we need to have the cost information to have the SAU budget finalized by December 31, 2012.

Bemis said Bath will put it out to bid for busing to have information and options.

Pike asked of Davis if the buses were updated with new technology. She replied yes. The issue of lack of cameras on the Sports buses was pointed out and asked if cameras could be added to the new contract. Davis would look into this.

Camera were described as being high resolution, digital quality sound and picture, not vivid color mostly B & W, and infrared.

Labs asked if it was possible to have a two year extension on the contract. Davis wasn’t sure of New Hampshire’s rules but Vermont was OK to extend.

Pike asked that when Emo does the numbers if we could have a mirror image of Appendix B to compare.

It was asked if Appendix C still applies regarding Health Insurance, not sure yet.

Amsden asked if there was a better way of handling the gas surcharge. We get a better rate for gas then we bill Butler the surcharge difference. How does BMU do it? Butler buys the fuel and bills BMU surcharge.
BMU will check into Vermont fuel options.

Amsden asked Davis if they were updating their billing software. Davis said she had come up with a different way of doing it and it seems to be working well. Pike asked for more billing details. Davis said she will work with BMU on details.

Labs asked if we had enough buses. Everyone said there seems to be. We have our own handicap bus for Haverhill, this frees up the two handicap buses in the contract for the rest of the SAU District.

Amsden added that we would not need the mid-day buses for Kindergarten next year. We have gone to all day Kindergarten. Davis is aware of this.

Davis will email the numbers to both Rich Pike and Bruce Labs, hopefully five days before the next meeting for review.

Amsden will be meeting with Chynoweth in the next few days and offered to pass along any questions or issues.

Davis asked if Bath wanted the contract to be figured both ways, with Bath and without Bath in the contract. Bemis said yes, both ways. She also asked if the Lisbon bus should be added into the contract. Amsden questioned this as the Lisbon bus is only for Bath students, not SAU and the contract is SAU. Would have to look into this.

Davis added if anyone had questions of concerns to let them know.

Bagley remarked that he has only had two complaint calls in the last three years.

Everyone was thanked for attending.

Next meeting scheduled for October 29, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Haverhill Coop Middle School Library.

Adjournment 7:10 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by
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