

MINUTES  
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 21, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS –Mary Beeman and Keith Bishop.

GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS – William Bloss

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF – Tom Forcella, Andy Potochney, Linda Trudeau and Nils Peterson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Mr. Bishop stated that the three vendors have submitted revised bids for transportation services. Mr. Bishop questioned if there were reasons not to except the low bidder. The members present did not provide any reasons not to award to the low bidder. A discussion of the location of the maintenance garage for each vendor was discussed.

Mrs. Beeman asked if the amount of the umbrella coverage was an issue. Mr. Potochney stated that it would only be in issue if there was a lawsuit.

Mr. Potochney stated that justification could be made for each vendor. Student Transportation of America is the low bidder, M& J Bus Co. is a local company and First Student would provide continuity. Mr. Potochney added that the decision should be based upon what is right for the students of the district and that each of the vendors is capable of doing the job.

Mr. Bishop stated that his opinion is to award the contract to the low bidder, Student Transportation of America (STA), unless other information arises from checking their references. Mr. Bishop questioned how each vendor will address the issue of an office building at the bus yard. Mrs. Trudeau provided a copy of each bid submission for Mr. Bishop to review.

Mrs. Beeman asked what would occur in the event of vandalism to some or all of the buses. Mr. Potochney relied that each company would be able to operate with a delayed opening or with only the loss of one day of school. Mr. Bloss asked if STA would hire current staff. Mr. Peterson stated that STA has said that they would offer positions to the existing staff.

Mr. Bishop questioned what increase was included in the 2008-09 Budget. Mr. Potochney stated that the budget includes a 4% increase. A discussion of whether any personnel could be cut by STA. Mrs. Trudeau stated that certain positions are included in the contract and could not be cut.

Mr. Potochney asked if there was any additional information the Subcommittee was requesting from the Business Office. The subcommittee requested that the business Office check the references provided by STA. Mr. Potochney stated that he would check references prior to the meeting on Tuesday.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the subcommittee voted unanimously to move forward with the recommendation to award the transportation contract to Student Transportation of America pending reference checks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Trudeau  
Accounting Manager