

**Multimodal Transportation and Student Safety Special Committee
November 20, 2013 Meeting**

Attendees: Eric Goodman, Jane Kim-Guthrie, Kristin Haldeman, Jack Owens, Robert Laws, Nancy Van Doren, Jana Lynott, Lauren Hassel, Gillian Burgess, Ellen Smith, Tim Rosato, Dennis Leach, Erik Maskelony, Ronna Weber.

Absent: Robert Hindman, Kyle Lukacs, John Chadwick, Scott Prisco, Aja Sae-Kung, Sally Baird

Guest: Donna Owens

Kristin called the meeting to order. The agenda was accepted. Minutes from November 6 were approved.

There was no public comment.

Kristin mentioned Ronna Weber's report about the CCPTA presentation regarding Transportation. There was much discussion at that meeting about the APS Go Survey.

Jane discussed her meeting at Jamestown, which focused on crowding at bus stops without sidewalks, bus times, and determining walk zone criteria.

Tim Rosato also attended the Key PTA meeting. Their concerns were about busing, anecdotally mentioning that only about half of those who have busing use it because of times and convenience. They had concerns about bus safety, parking in the densely populated area of Courthouse, and concerns about route optimization.

Erick M. visited with McKinley and they had very few comments. They had one concern about a crossing near the school at 9th street. There was also a route optimization concern. Regarding the Transportation Call Center, there was one complaint about a timely reply. Perhaps drivers would be better sources of how to route more effectively. Erik M. also visited Glebe. They did not know what Courtesy Busing is. Glebe parents felt the walk distance of one mile is too far. And it takes a lot of time for the parents to return. If bus and walk are inconvenient, they drive. They had safety concerns. Toole has made some recommendations regarding Glebe Road on 18th street. Comments were made about one of the buses that is consistently late at 9:00 a.m. Subs do not know the route. Students tell drivers how to drive the route. Call Center was slow to respond. Maybe we should outsource bus service.

Erik M. also visited HB. Route optimization was also a big issue, particularly for kids who have to ride the bus for long periods of time. Lots of bus riders at HB. Lots of folks were unhappy with the way bus eligibility was determined. NO bus service to support the 8:20 classes. Discussion ensued regarding bus service to the early morning classes. This might be an issue in terms of encouraging kids to go to school early – would need the bus.

Parents felt the 1.5 miles is too far and students won't do it. The buses that transport kids to home schools for sports are never on time. Courtesy busing causes the parents anxiety and is confusing. Parents would like the school board to be very deliberate if they change walk zones or bus policies. Committee members agreed to email the group a summary of their PTA meetings.

Budget Guidance information was then introduced by Kristin. She reviewed the information sent by the Budget Advisory Council regarding budget guidance and timeline. Schools are currently doing close out from the previous fiscal year. She discussed the previous evenings' presentation by John Chadwick to the School Board regarding facilities and planning for the increased population of students. There will be issues regarding capacity due to the overcrowding and construction and non-construction solutions were discussed. Transportation will be a part of that.

Kristin, Tim Rosato, and Ronna Weber will work on budget issues. All committee members will work on budget ideas related to the policies issues that they consider. Kristin believes there are items regarding the budget that we should get in front of the school board within the next few weeks. Some items in our report could be recommended now, such as having adequate staffing in the transportation department, the safe routes to school coordinator should be funded, and planning staff to work on transportation. The committee discussed what type of budget recommendations it might want to give at that time. Kristin recommended that we write something regarding the staff structure that would be needed to do the transportation planning and work needed. Dennis Leach urges that APS needs institutional capacity building in order to develop strong transportation and multi-modal system. Safe routes to school and TDM planner would be very useful to the county as permanent APS staff people to work with. Erik urged us to link our budget recommendations with policy recommendations. Ronna, Kristin, and Tim will draft this document. Ronna is scribe.

Policy and PIP Break out groups

(See individual reports from each section.)

50-5 Transportation (where walk distances are outlined) Erik M, Nancy, Erick G., Ellen (scribe)

50-5-1 Pupil Transportation (We all have this in our original Committee packets and it is pretty meaty.) Jane (scribe), Jack, Bob

50-1.1 Transportation Demand Management (this is fairly brief, and we called it out specifically in the report as needing an overhaul). Jana (scribe), Gillian, Lauren, Dennis

25-2.2 Enrollment and Transfers for Schools and Programs - includes information about the availability of transportation for County-wide schools and programs, and transfers.

50-3.1 - Student safety, discusses crossing guards

Next Steps: Review work done this evening. Next meeting is at Key School.

Adjourn