



Memorandum to the Board of Education

Meeting in Public

FROM: Art Olson, Manager of Operations and Transportation
DATE: June 21, 2022
SUBJECT: Transportation Services and Transportation Assistance Review

For Information

Background

The District currently provides transportation services to students of School District 10 (Arrow Lakes) via six (6) regular bus routes, with approximately 250-300 (over 55%) students riding a bus to/from school. With the exception of the Burton bus route, these bus routes have been in place for many years and have varied from year-to-year based on minor changes in ridership (i.e. adding or dropping a bus stop). The Burton bus route was established in 2019 due to the rapid increase in enrollment at BES.

There are a number of variables to consider in optimizing the routes and bus stops in the District, including costs and remote and rural needs, including safe turn-arounds and safe road access.

The Board's Policy 680 – Transportation Assistance aims to help offset some of the transportation costs for students who are not served by a regular bus route. The number of families that qualify and access transportation assistance varies from year to year, influenced by new residential developments outside of the main communities and changing community demographics.

Information

Transportation services is an optional service that School Districts' may or may not offer and there are no targeted funds provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to cover the full costs of providing the service. However, transportation in SD10 is currently viewed as a fundamental service, and the District has committed to providing safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation that supports students and families.

With the aim to improve the reliability of bus transportation services, the District hired a transportation expert to perform an analysis of the District's transportation. A Student Transportation Analysis report was completed in June, 2020, in which various recommendations were made as to how to improve transportation services in the District. Due to COVID the District paused any consideration and implementation of the proposed recommendations. Since that time, enrollment changes, increasing student ridership on certain bus routes, and growth in residential areas outside of the main communities have added to the need to revisit and consider the recommendations from the Analysis.



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Conclusion

Taking into consideration the expected transportation needs in 2022-2023, District staff will review the recommendations of the Student Transportation Analysis, the District's transportation protocols and Policy 680 – Transportation Assistance, and report to the Board in September 2022.