



Memorandum to the Board of Education

Meeting Open to the Public

FROM: Michael McLellan, Secretary-Treasurer
DATE: December 9, 2022
SUBJECT: Vehicle Purchases

For Information

Introduction/Background

At a meeting on September 16, 2022, the Board adopted the 2021-2022 annual financial statements and approved restricting a total \$474,000 of the District's accumulated operating surplus, of which \$200,000 was set aside for vehicle purchases in future years. This was a rough amount set aside for the purchase of transportation vans, a work truck and a lawn mower.

The District currently owns one passenger van for use by schools: a Toyota Sienna minivan that can carry the driver plus six passengers, which has approximately 150,000km of use.

There has been greater demand than availability for use of the Sienna van. Nakusp Secondary School (NSS) uses the van frequently for travel by sports teams and other extra-curricular activities. Lucerne Elementary Secondary School (LESS) also uses the van for extra-curricular activities. Arrow Lakes Distributed Learning (ALDL) uses the van frequently for the Experiential Learning program. The van is also in demand for various curricular travel purposes by all schools in the district.

The District's primary transportation vehicles for students are its school busses. Alternatively, for smaller groups and classes, a van has sufficient passenger seating to accommodate the members of the group/class. Another alternative is for parents to provide transportation, with reimbursements of travel/mileage expenses.

The cost of operating a school bus, not including driver wages, is approximately \$2.75/km. The cost of operating a van is approximately \$0.50/km. Compared with the alternatives, the cost of operating a van is significantly lower and does not require coordination with parents.

It is proposed that the District upgrade its fleet with the purchase of three new vans over the next year:

Vehicle	Purchaser	Passengers	Cost
Ford Transit AWD Van	District	10	\$82,349 = \$75,550 + taxes
Ford Transit AWD Van	NSS	10	\$82,349 = \$75,550 + taxes
Chrysler Pacifica AWD Van	District	7	\$76,300 = \$70,000 + taxes
TOTAL			\$240,999

The cost of the vans would be amortized at 10% per year, so the financial cost in the first year would be \$24,099.



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The Ford Transit vans would be expected to be delivered within the next year, likely by summer 2023. The Chrysler Pacifica van is available for purchase immediately. The Chrysler Pacifica AWD van would enter the fleet immediately. The existing Toyota Sienna van would be used until the delivery of the Ford Transit AWD vans, after which it would be sold.

Each of the vans would be equipped with available safety features, including AWD, rear-camera and back-up alarm. The Ford Transit van would also have a limited slip differential on the rear axle for winter safety, and an extended fuel tank for longer distance field trips and sporting or arts events.

One Ford Transit AWD van and the Chrysler Pacifica AWD van would be made available for all schools in the District. The other Ford Transit van would be purchased by NSS, for its exclusive use. The District would finance the purchase of this van, and NSS would reimburse the District over a period of eight years or less.

Conclusion/Recommendation

It is proposed that the District undertake to upgrade its transportation fleet with the purchase of the three vans.

By acquiring and making vans available for use in the District, the District would achieve greater cost savings than their cost and/or would facilitate greater educational and extra-curricular opportunities for students.

The expense incurred for the purchase of these vans would be added to the 2022-2023 Amended Budget, to be presented to the Board in February 2023.