

Agenda
York Catholic District School Board
York Public District School Board
Joint Board Consortium
Electronic Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Page

1. [YCDSB TV LIVE STREAM](#)

2. Call to Order

2023-2024 Joint Board Consortium
Committee Membership

- Trustee L. Hoeg - YR
- Trustee R. Lynn - YR
- Trustee C. Yu - YR
- Trustee E. Crowe - YC
- Trustee J. Di Meo - YC
- Trustee A. Grella - YC

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

5. Approval of Minutes

- October 18, 2023

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1.

- Nil Report

DECISION ITEMS

1. Election of Joint Board Consortium Co-Chairs

2. 2024-2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule

N. Smith

3 - 4

5

INFORMATION ITEMS

- | | | | |
|---------|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7 - 8 | 1. | STSYR Update | <i>N. Smith</i> |
| 9 - 10 | 2. | Recruitment and Retention Bonus | <i>N. Smith</i> |
| 11 - 13 | 3. | Transportation Eligibility Parameters | <i>N. Smith</i> |

ADJOURNMENT

**YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (YRDSB)
YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (YCDSB)**

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION
JOINT BOARD CONSORTIUM**

The Joint Board Consortium meeting was held electronically on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

YRDSB Trustees: L. Hoeg and N. Mahmood

YRDSB Staff: B. Cober and V. Maharaj

YCDSB Trustees: F. Alexander and J. DiMeo

YCDSB Staff: C. McNeil, T. Pechkovsky, J. Sarna and D. Scuglia

STSYR Staff: N. Smith

Presiding: YRDSB Trustee N. Mahmood

Recording Officer: L. Toniutti

Also in Attendance: YRDSB Trustees M. Chen and E. Cohen
YCDSB Trustees A. Grella, M. Iafrate and A. Saggese
YRDSB Administrative Assistant, Trustee Services S. Infanti
STSYR Administrative Assistant L. Toniutti

Absent: YRDSB Trustee R. Lynn

CALL TO ORDER

YRDSB Trustee N. Mahmood called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts were declared by trustees at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by common consent, as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no changes or objections to the May 10, 2023 minutes of the Joint Board Consortium (Public Session) meeting. The minutes were approved, as written.

BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the minutes of the May 10, 2023 meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

There were no decision items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

September 2023 Start-Up Report

Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR) Manager, N. Smith provided Committee members with an update on the September 2023 Start-Up.

It was highlighted that the September 2023 Start-Up experienced many service successes despite the ongoing province-wide driver shortage, traffic and construction projects.

Despite initial services challenges in September, weekly on-time service delivery improved in terms of both the number of reported delays and their severity. On-time performance increased throughout the start-up period. STSYR staff continues to work with school bus and taxi vendors to identify and resolve concerns to ensure optimal service delivery for students of York Region.

Student Transportation Enhanced Ministry Reporting

STSYR Manager, N. Smith provided Committee members with an update on the Student Transportation Enhanced Ministry Report.

In April 2023, the Ministry of Education introduced changes and enhanced reporting requirements to the Student Transportation Grant which include:

- reports based on actual transportation;
- reports based on common reference standards; and
- financial reports.

Administration continues to review the revisions to the Student Transportation Framework and STSYR staff will develop internal processes to ensure all reporting requirements are met per the Ministry's guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair N. Mahmood noted there was no further business and the Joint Board Consortium (Public Session) meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

MEMO TO: Joint Board Consortium

FROM: Administration

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Proposed 2024-25 Meeting Schedule and Locations

Executive Summary:

This report intends to provide the Joint Board Consortium with a proposed meeting schedule for the 2024-25 school year.

Background:

The Joint Board Consortium meets three times annually.

Recommendation:

That the Joint Board Consortium approves the following meeting dates and locations for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the York Catholic District School Board;
- Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the York Region District School Board; and
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the York Region District School Board.

MEMO TO: Joint Board Consortium

FROM: Administration

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: STSYR Service Update

Executive Summary:

This report intends to provide a year-to-date service update on Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR).

On-Time Operator Performance:

STSYR staff have worked extensively with our contracted school bus and taxi companies to provide optimal service standards for the students of York Region. While service challenges related to province-wide driver shortages and traffic and construction concerns are still relevant, service levels have improved drastically since September. For September, the on-time performance of the contracted service was approximately 92%. As of February, on-time performance has improved to approximately 98%.

Please be advised that operators must report route delays exceeding ten (10) minutes. STSYR monitors route delays daily and regularly reviews on-time performance to assess service levels.

Month	YRDSB			YCDSB		
	AM Trip	PM Trip	Average On-Time Performance	AM Trip	PM Trip	Average On-Time Performance
September	92.5%	94.3%	93.4%	90.8%	92.5%	91.6%
October	95.8%	95.7%	95.7%	95.1%	95.7%	95.4%
November	96.4%	96.1%	96.2%	96.5%	96.0%	96.3%
December	96.8%	97.2%	97.0%	96.9%	97.2%	97.0%
January	95.8%	97.3%	96.5%	95.0%	97.1%	96.1%
February	98.1%	97.3%	97.7%	98.2%	97.5%	97.9%

Accident / Incident Related Delays:

There are various reasons why a school bus route may encounter a service delay. Factors such as traffic congestion, construction, adverse weather or road conditions, and driver absenteeism are well documented. Additionally, school bus accidents and incidents can also contribute to service delays. Incidents may involve student behaviour concerns, loading or unloading delays at schools or bus stops, or students not being met by an adult at their designated stop location. During the 2023-24 school year, reported school bus accidents and incidents account for approximately 15% of total delays.

To mitigate the impact of accident and incident-related service delays, STSYR employs several strategies. These include conducting on-site driver file and fleet audits to ensure compliance with Ministry of Transportation regulations and the terms outlined in our service agreements. Additionally, STS coordinates School Bus Safety Training programs for elementary students.

Summary:

STSYR staff remain committed to monitoring operator performance levels and addressing service concerns promptly. While service levels have improved, staff will continue collaborating with our service partners to develop processes that mitigate service delays in York Region.

MEMO TO: Joint Board Consortium

FROM: Administration

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Recruitment and Retention Bonus

Executive Summary:

This report intends to update the Joint Board Consortium regarding the Recruitment and Retention Bonus introduced in the 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant.

Background:

The 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant introduced a Recruitment and Retention Bonus (RRB) intended to support the retention and recruitment of school bus drivers. This category integrates the School Bus Driver Retention Program (DRP) from previous school years, funded outside the Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

Funding for the RRB allocated \$2,363 for each school bus route based on routing simulation results. While school boards and consortia are not required to administer or issue these payments to school bus drivers, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has directed them to flow the allocated funds to operators best positioned to administer these payments, as they employ school bus drivers.

2023-24 School Year:

Based on the MOE directive, STSYR has successfully agreed to the RRB-related contract addenda for the 2023-24 school year with our school bus operators. The addenda follow the eligibility criteria and payment amounts as outlined in 2023: B-06 (Student Transportation Grant – Grants for Student Needs 2023-24), 2023: SB-07 (2023-24 Student Transportation Grant and Enhanced Reporting, inclusive of Appendices 1 and 2), and 2024: SB-02 (Updates to 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant).

The flow of RRB funds to our contracted school bus operators is an added expense for the school boards in York Region. The estimated cost for the 2023-24 school year is \$2.5 M*

*Note: This cost assumes all drivers in York Region will qualify for the full RRB payment.

Summary:

The MOE introduced the RRB through the 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant. STSYR has successfully agreed contract addenda to flow the RRB payments following the

Ministry's directive. The flow of funds is an added cost to the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board.

MEMO TO: Joint Board Consortium
FROM: Administration
DATE: March 6, 2024
SUBJECT: Transportation Eligibility Parameters

Executive Summary:

This report intends to provide the Joint Board Consortium with information regarding distance eligibility parameters set by the Ministry of Education and school boards throughout the province. The operational and financial impact of amendments to distance eligibility criteria is explored.

Background:

The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) outline eligibility requirements for board-provided transportation in their respective Student Transportation policies. At both boards, eligibility for transportation to and/or from a student’s designated home school is a function of the distance from their home school and grade level. Table 1 provides a summary of the board’s distance parameters:

Table 1: Distance Eligibility Parameters of York Region Boards

Board	Distance Eligibility Parameters		
	JK - Gr. 3	Gr. 4 - 8	Gr. 9 - 12
York Region District School Board	1.2 km	1.6 km	3.2 km*
York Catholic District School Board	1.2 km	1.6 km	3.2 km - 4.8 km*

*Non-transportation zones are dependent on transit levels

Student Transportation Grant:

The Ministry of Education (MOE) introduced a revised Student Transportation Grant funding framework for the 2023-24 school year. The funding framework establishes common reference standards, including home-to-school distance criteria, for funding student transportation services across the province. Table 2 summarizes the distance parameters used in the MOE’s funding framework:

Table 2: MOE Common Reference Standards- Home-to-school distance criteria

	JK/SK	Gr. 1 to 8	Gr. 9 to 12
Eligibility threshold	0.8 km	1.6 km	3.2 km

Distance Thresholds throughout the Province:

Table 3 illustrates the various distance eligibility criteria used throughout the province.

Table 3: Provincial Distance Thresholds (Courtesy of COSBO)

Distance Thresholds				
Distance between Designated Address and Designated School (in km)	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 8		Grades 9 to 12
	0.8km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS)	0.8km	1.6km	1.6km	2.5km
Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services	1.2km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Halton Student Transportation Services	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR)	0.8km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Huron-Perth Student Transportation Services	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CKLASS)	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Bluewater District School Board & Bruce-Grey Catholic School Board	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km
Durham Student Transportation Services	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO)	1.0km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Trillium Lakelands District School Board	1.6km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Consortium de transport scolaire d'Ottawa	0 km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
Francobus transport service	0.8km	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km
	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 5	Grades 6 to 8	Grades 9 to 12
Toronto Student Transportation Group	1.6km	1.6km	3.2km	4.8km
	JK to Gr1	Grades 2 to 4	Grades 5 to 8	Grades 9 to 12
Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR)	1.0km	1.6km	2.0km	3.8km
	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 6	Grades 7 to 12 (Rural)	Grades 7 to 12
Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium	0.5km	1.6km	1.6km	2.5km
	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 3	Grades 4 to 8	Grades 9 to 12
Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR)	1.2km	1.2km	1.6km	3.2km
Rainy River District Transportation Services Consortium	0.0 km	1.0km	1.6km	3.2km
Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay	0.4km	0.8km	1.6km	1.6km
Northwestern Ontario Student Services Consortium	0.5km	1.0km	1.6km	3.2km
Algoma & Huron-Superior Transportation Services	0.0 km	0.75km	1.5km	2.25km
Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières	0.0 km	0.8km	1.6km	2.6km
Sudbury Student Services Consortium	0.0 km	1.0km	1.6km	2.5km
Nipissing-Parry Sound Student Transportation Services	0.0 km	1.0km	1.6km	3.0km

* Varied eligible distances for consortium member school boards.

Analysis:

Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR) staff have analyzed the estimated financial and operational impact of changes to the board's respective distance eligibility parameters under the following scenarios:

Option 1: Current distance parameters as outlined in policy 203.

Option 2: A 1.4 km distance for all elementary students.

Option 3: A 1.6 km distance for all elementary students.

Option 4: MOE Home-to-School distance criteria.

- a. JK – SK: 0.8 km;
- b. Gr. 1 – 8: 1.6 km.

Table 4 summarizes the number of elementary pupils eligible for transportation services and the estimated cost impact of each option. Option 3 would result in the most significant decrease in the number of eligible students and overall transportation costs.

Table 4: Elementary Student Distance Parameters

Distance Eligibility Criteria	Number of Students Eligible for Transportation	Costs Difference from Current Policy Criteria	Notes
Option 1*: 1.2 km JK - Gr. 3; 1.6 km Gr. 4 - 8	46105	\$ -	
Option 2: 1.4 km JK - Gr. 8	43184	(\$2,322,921.37)	# of Jk - Gr. 3 students eligible decreases from current policy. # of Gr. 4 - 8 students eligible increase from current policy.
Option 3: 1.6 km JK - Gr. 8	40310	(\$4,654,215.13)	# of Jk - Gr. 3 students eligible decreases from current policy. # of Gr. 4 - 8 students eligible does not change from current policy
Option 4**: 0.8 km JK - SK ; 1.6 km Gr. 1 - 8**	46143	\$27,423.83	# of JK - SK students eligible increases from current policy. # of Gr. 1 - 3 students eligible decreases from current policy. # of Gr. 4 - 8 students eligible does not change from current policy.

*Current eligibilty crietia
 **MOE home-to-school criteria

Summary:

There are numerous distance eligibility criteria throughout the province. Administration will work to support a collaborative, simultaneous review of the transportation policies of the two respective school boards.