

Agenda
Joint Board Consortium
Board Room, York Region District School Board
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
4:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes 1 - 4
 - November 1, 2017
5. Business Arising
6. Election of Joint Board Consortium Co-Chairs for 2018-2019

Decision Item

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| 7. 2018-2019 Proposed Meeting Schedule and Locations | Dan Willis | 5 |
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Information Items

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| 8. 2018-2019 Transportation Budget | Claire Tupchong | 6 |
| 9. Update on Ministry's New Vision for Student Transportation | Joe Guchardi | 7 - 8 |
| 10. Ministry School Bus Driver Retention Bonus Program | Joe Guchardi | 9 |
| 11. Transportation Funding for Children in Care | Joe Guchardi | 10 |

ROUTINE

York Region District School Board
York Catholic District School Board

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SESSION of the JOINT BOARD CONSORTIUM

The Joint Board Consortium meeting was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:28 p.m. in the Board Room of the York Catholic District School Board, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario.

PRESENT:

YRDSB Trustees: L. Carruthers (via audio conference), C. Chan, C. Cordova and A. DeBartolo and Student Trustees M. Hong and S. Rico

YRDSB Staff: J. Fair, W. Muirhead-Toporek and E. Forster

YCDSB Trustees: E. Crowe and T. McNicol

YCDSB Staff: F. Bagley and T. Pechovsky

STSYR Staff: K. Brown, C. Tupchong and D. Willis

Presiding: Trustee E. Crowe

Recording Officer: L. Toniutti

Regrets: Committee Co-Chair C. Cotton, Manager, Student Transportation Services J. Guchardi

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee E. Crowe called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. Trustee A. DeBartolo welcomed newly elected Trustee C. Cordova and Student Trustees M. Hong and S. Rico to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Trustee E. Crowe asked any trustee who has a direct personal interest or direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter being discussed during the meeting to state their conflict and the nature thereof. No conflicts were declared at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee E. Crowe noted that an update on the St. Mark Catholic Elementary School and Glad Park Public School Traffic Study will be added to the agenda.

(*)1. Moved by A. DeBartolo, seconded by T. McNicol:

That the agenda be approved as amended.

- Carried -

RECEIPT OF MINUTES

(*)2. Moved by A. DeBartolo, seconded by T. McNicol:

That the Minutes of the Regular Joint Board Consortium Meeting of June 7, 2017 be approved, as presented.

- Carried -

INFORMATION ITEMS

Revised 2017-2018 Meeting Schedule

Committee members agree that Joint Board Consortium Committee meetings for 2018 will be held at the York Region District School Board at 4:00 p.m. on;

- Wednesday, February 7, 2018,
- Wednesday, May 2, 2018, and
- Wednesday, October 24, 2018.

Going forward, Joint Board Consortium meetings will be scheduled by calendar year, with the first meeting of each committee year being scheduled in February.

September 2017 Start-Up Report

Dan Willis, Assistant Manager, Student Transportation Services of York Region (STSYR), provided an update on the September 2017 start-up.

Driver shortages were and continue to be effectively managed by school bus contractors through ongoing hiring, training and retraining their school bus drivers.

STSYR proactively adjusted routes to minimize delays caused by traffic and construction congestion on the Yonge Street and Highway 7 corridors.

Staff shared information about how STSYR communicates walk zone changes to parents and students transitioning from elementary to secondary school.

Ministry of Education Survey

Claire Tupchong, Business Analyst, STSYR, provided an update on the status of the collection of data for the Ministry's Annual Transportation Report. The survey data will be submitted to the Ministry by the November 30, 2017 deadline.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Inclement Weather Bussing Zones

J. Fair, Senior Manager, Legal, Legislative and Administrative Services, stated that STSYR services over 300 catholic and public schools in York Region. Historically school bus service on inclement weather days has been cancelled region-wide.

Committee members discussed the importance of ensuring student safety and continuation of learning on inclement weather days and reflected on the possibility of implementing cancellation zones to address varied weather patterns across the region.

Staff clarified the current school bus cancellation procedure and shared challenges and costs associated with the creation of zones.

Committee members requested that staff from each school board investigate financial, legal and human resources implications of implementing cancellation zones as well as cost estimates for each school board.

It was noted that proposed timelines to develop a cost analysis will be provided to trustees.

(*)3. Moved by T. McNicol, seconded by C. Chan:

That staff from each school board prepare a report outlining the steps required to develop a full cost analysis and a reasonable timeline for implementation.

- Carried -

St. Mark Catholic Elementary School and Glad Park Public School Traffic Study

T. Pechovsky, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations, provided information to the Joint Board Consortium on the traffic study completed for St. Mark Catholic Elementary School and Glad Park Public School. It was noted that the results of the study have been shared with key stakeholders, including the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, the Region of York and both schools.

The traffic study recommends an immediate bell time change for St. Mark Catholic Elementary School to 9:00 a.m. to alleviate traffic congestion and help ensure student safety. The current policy states that parents and guardians be provided one year notice regarding bell time changes of forty-five minutes or greater. Given the temporary loss of the parking lot at the neighboring church, trustees have been asked to consider waiving the notice period in order to implement the bell time change as soon as possible, pending consultation with stakeholders.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Joint Board Consortium meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at the York Region District School Board.

(*)4. Moved by T. McNicol, seconded by A. DeBartolo.

That the Joint Board Consortium Meeting Public Session adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

- Carried -

MEMO TO: Joint Board Consortium
FROM: Administration
DATE: May 2, 2018
SUBJECT: Proposed 2018-2019 Meeting Schedule and Locations

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Joint Board Consortium with a proposed meeting schedule and locations for the 2018-2019 school year.

Background:

The Joint Board Consortium meets three times annually. Historically, meetings are scheduled in November, March and June. At the November 1, 2017 meeting, a recommendation was made to adjust the meeting dates to better align with the school year calendar.

Recommendation:

That the Joint Board Consortium approve the following meeting dates for the 2018-2019 school year:

**Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at York Region District School Board;
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at York Catholic District School Board; and
Wednesday, May 1, 2019 York Catholic District School Board.**

REPORT TO: Joint Board Consortium
FROM: Administration
DATE: May 2, 2018
SUBJECT: 2018-2019 Transportation Budgets

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on budget preparations for Student Transportation Services for the 2018-2019 school year. The budget is comprised of general, administration and operating expenses for the York Catholic and York Region District School Boards.

Budget Preparations:

Administration developed the 2018-2019 budgets based on the following factors:

- no additional staff requirements;
- one new school opening for the York Region District School Board
- two school closings for the York Catholic District School Board;
- fuel cost fluctuations;
- cost increases due to contractual obligations;
- increased service needs for students based on program;
- a review of software upgrade costs; and
- routing efficiencies.

Summary:

Each Board is responsible for their portion of the operating costs of the Student Transportation Services budget, in accordance with the service provisions outlined in their respective Transportation policies. The administration budget is shared 50/50 between the Boards. The budget estimates reflect current service levels and school board policies.

Board specific budgets will be presented and considered by each Board separately.

REPORT TO: Joint Board Consortium

FROM: Administration

DATE: May 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Ministry New Vision for Student Transportation

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Ministry of Education's discussion paper, [A New Vision for Student Transportation in Ontario](#).

Background:

In July 2017, the Ministry of Education announced it was undertaking a one-year engagement to develop a new vision for student transportation. Two reference groups were established to assist in developing the new vision.

Innovation Reference Group:

- Comprised of experts in the subjects of public transit, climate change, design, ride sharing and automation, transportation safety and education equity.
- Members of this group will provide ideas about innovative opportunities for student transportation.

Transportation Reference Group:

- Comprised of transportation industry experts, members of this group will provide technical feedback on student transportation operations and delivery as well as policy making and oversight.

The reference groups will assist the Ministry appointed executive co-leads develop the framework for the new vision of student transportation. The new vision will focus on four major goals:

1. Responsiveness to student transportation needs;
2. Equity in transportation services;
3. Transportation and well-being of students; and
4. Accountability in transportation service delivery.

Stakeholder input sessions have been held throughout the province to provide feedback and suggestions to the co-leads.

Summary:

The process is expected to conclude in the fall of 2018 with a summary report to be shared with stakeholders. Student Transportation Services of York Region will share the report with Joint Board Consortium members when it becomes available.

REPORT TO: Joint Board Consortium

FROM: Administration

DATE: May 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Ministry School Bus Driver Retention Bonus Program

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the Ministry of Education's initiative to assist school bus companies recruit and retain drivers.

Background:

The Ministry of Education understands the important role school bus drivers play within the education system. They also recognize the challenges faced by service providers to recruit and retain drivers in order to fulfill the contract requirements with transportation consortia.

Driver retention issues began as a Greater Toronto Area consortia problem but have recently become a province-wide challenge.

To promote driver retention, the Ministry of Education announced a province-wide initiative that will allow drivers who provide continuous home to school service to receive three retention bonuses. The Ministry is working directly with school bus companies to administer the bonus payments to school bus drivers. One bonus payment will be made for the 2017-2018 school year and two bonus payments will be made for the 2018-2019 school year.

The intention of the retention bonus is to:

1. Encourage drivers to stay on the job throughout the school year;
2. Reduce driver turnover; and
3. Make student transportation services more reliable for students and families.

Summary:

Student Transportation Services welcomes the retention bonus program and improved service for the students, families and school staff at York Region schools.

REPORT TO: Joint Board Consortium

FROM: Administration

DATE: May 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Transportation Funding for Children and Youth in Care

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the Ministry of Education's recent announcement on transportation funding for children and youth in care.

Background:

The Ministry of Education has determined that students and youth in care, including children from Crown wards, have a graduation rate significantly lower than the provincial average.

Children and youth in care who change placements mid-year often have difficulty focusing on their studies as they adjust to a new school.

The Ministry of Education will provide temporary transportation funding to support children and youth in care to remain in their school of origin after a placement change with a natural transition time, or when it is in the child's best interest. Funding to provide this service has only been guaranteed for the 2017-2018 school year.

Summary:

The York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board have received funding to provide the temporary service.