

**Board Special Meeting**  
**Work Session: Transportation**  
February 23, 2021, 4:30 – 7:30 pm  
*Meeting held remotely*



**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Director DeWolf called the meeting to order at 4:31p.m. Directors Hampson, Hersey, Harris, Rivera-Smith and Rankin participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone.

**Work Session: Transportation**

The work session was staffed by Superintendent Juneau and Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge and Chief Operating Officer Fred Podesta.

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge reviewed the agenda for this work session. Chief Operating Officer Fred Podesta gave opening remarks about the progress and service standards within Transportation Department. Transportation Manager Michael Hunter Maltais spoke about the current transportation funding model. He reviewed the two factors that are heavily weighted when allocation funding are being done. Budget Director Linda Sebring spoke about the yellow bus and metro transit ridership over time 2017-2020. She reviewed the funding over time from 2015-2021 for District Transportation. Ms. Sebring reviewed the major factors for revenue changes. The legislature in 2018-19 provided a one-time funding increase of \$9M. In 2019-20 the District received approximately half of that amount and then in 2020-21 no extra funds were received. Ms. Sebring reviewed the First Student contract increases beginning in 2017-18. Mr. Maltais spoke about the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 cost breakdown by each program, bus, metro, alternative service providers and in-lieu. Chief Berge explained how transportation formula wasn't fully funded prior to Covid impacts and now that gap is growing. She spoke about the possible savings based on the Board Directors decision if Option Schools transportation is eliminated.

Directors asked questions of staff about impacts of transportation changes and eliminations. Mr. Maltais spoke about the option schools that have transportation provided. He explained reviewed which schools were included in the option school's attendance areas. Director of Enrollment Planning Ms. Davies reviewed the data available for option school diversity and the charts. Ms. Davies explained families always have the option to go back to the neighborhood school. She reviewed how capacity would be affected if students decided to go from an option school to their neighborhood school. Mr. Maltais spoke about what the legal requirements to provide transportation for students. He reviewed improvements to increase transportation efficiency such as changing school bell times, exploring extending walk zones and expand the orca card program. Ms. Sebring explained how the switch in bell times affected the athletic transportation, an additional \$1M in cost was added due to charter buses being needed due to bell time conflicts.

Chief Berge spoke about the legislative action that is needed for transportation. Chief Podesta reviewed the impacts Covid has on student transportation. Chief Berge explained the District still have interests that need to be balanced and equity is at the highest priority. Chief Berge reviewed the FY22-23 recommendations for the Board Directors to explore.

Director Rankin noted the idea of going back to three tiers makes her unhappy, however she understands it could save money for the District. But she recalls the last tier update, how the health and wellness for students was considered.

Chief Berge confirmed at the next Budget Work session on March 3<sup>rd</sup> more discussion will continue.

### **Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

*This meeting was held remotely per the Governor's proclamations allowing public agencies to conduct meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act remotely to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Public access was provided remotely online and by teleconference.*

### **Minutes submitted by:**

*The Office of Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge.*