



Wild Rose School Division

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Date: September 10, 2019

Report to: Board of Trustees

From: Kristen Disley, Director of Transportation
Ama Urbinsky – Secretary Treasurer

Re: Annual Pupil Transportation Accountability Report

1. **Operation Information:**

- During the 2018 – 2019 School Year our Transportation Department provided daily transportation services to 4,052 students on 76 bus routes with a total daily distance of 10,678 kilometers or 1,943,396 kilometers per year based on 182 operating days. This does not include travel related to activity trips (extra and co-curricular activities) with the units operated by the Schools, the Transportation Department or from our Contractors. The Transportation Department operated 168 activity trips during the year.
- In 2018 – 2019 of the 76 routes, 31 were contracted out and 45 were Board operated. The contracted routes were tendered out in 2017 and were awarded to the Contractors listed below with the estimated annual costs, as well as the real costs for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

| | First Student | Prairie | S. Hill | Total |
|---------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 2017-18 | \$663,246 | \$736,905 | \$389,036 | \$1,789,187 |
| 2018-19 | \$553,872 | \$925,363 | \$380,144 | \$1,859,379 |
| 2019-20 | \$644,273 | \$723,298 | \$401,943 | \$1,769,514 |
| 2020-21 | \$657,040 | \$738,697 | \$401,943 | \$1,797,681 |
| 2021-22 | \$670,243 | \$760,808 | \$425,223 | \$1,856,274 |

The above numbers (with the exception of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019) do not include the costs associated with the fuel escalation clause in two of the three contracts, which we no longer are reimbursed for from the government. We took three routes from First Student prior to the start up of 2018-2019 School Year and offered them to Prairie Bus Lines as First Student was regularly shutting them down due to no driver available. The Division also has

contracted arrangements with the Stoney Education Authority and the Parkland School Division

The Division does receive funding for the Stoney Education Students based on Ta Otha being their nearest school. No funding is received for the students being transported into Drayton Valley by Parkland School Division, however, a payment was made to Parkland School Division in the sum of \$38,048.10 for transporting students to Wild Rose Schools.

- Wild Rose School Division provides busing service to the Red Deer Catholic and St. Thomas Aquinas Divisions under a cooperative Bussing Agreement with an additional grant of \$168,896. In the 2018 – 2019 year our Bus Fleet in the southern part of our Division had no additional days for Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools. The northern part of our division had no additional days for St. Thomas Aquinas.
- In town busing is provided to students in Rocky Mountain House and Drayton Valley on a “no charge” basis. There are three pickup points in Rocky Mountain House and two in Drayton Valley as well as a shuttle service between the Elementary Schools in Rocky and all Schools in Drayton Valley
- During the 2018 – 2019 year there were a total of 365 individual route cancellations due to inclement weather on the Division operated routes. There were 210 weather related cancellations on the contracted routes. The majority of cancellations occurred in February 2019.
- The following chart provides a breakdown of other Divisional Bus Driver absences (in days) during the past two years:

| | 2017 -2018 | 2018 - 2019 |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Medical Leave - less than 5 days | 95.5 | 157 |
| Medical Leave - 5 days or more | 451 | 65.5 |
| Compassionate leave days | 21 | 33 |
| Weather Days | 315.5 | 348.5 |
| Leave without pay | 183.5 | 244 |
| Critical Illness | 3 | 7 |

2. Route Information

| | <u>2016-2017</u> Actual | <u>2017-2018</u> Actual | <u>2018-2019</u> Actual |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Average pickup time | 7:51 | 7:57 | 7:56 |
| Average school arrival | 8:26 | 8:29 | 8:28 |
| Average time on bus | 34 minutes | 32 minutes | 32 minutes |
| Number of Riders > 1 hour | 411 | 338 | 318 |
| % Ride Time > 1 Hour | 10.5% | 8.6% | 8.0% |

See [Appendix A](#) for detailed information on the 2017 – 2018 data.

Student residence from school:

| Distance range (km) | <u>2016-2017</u> Actual | <u>2017-2018</u> Actual | <u>2018-2019</u> Actual |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| < 2.4 | 208 - 5.32% | 306 - 7.82% | 291 - 7.35% |
| 2.4 – 5.9 | 819 - 20.94% | 863 - 22.05% | 894 - 22.57% |
| 6.9 – 9.0 | 742 - 18.97% | 710 - 18.14% | 698 - 17.62% |
| 10.0 – 13.9 | 658 - 16.82% | 638 - 16.3% | 634 - 16.01% |
| 14.0 – 17.9 | 463 - 11.84% | 448 - 11.45% | 437 - 11.03% |
| 18.0 – 25.9 | 696 - 17.8% | 692 - 17.68% | 712 - 17.98% |
| 26.0 – 37.9 | 244 - 6.24% | 221 - 5.65% | 252 - 6.36% |
| 38+ | 81 - 2.07% | 36 - 0.92% | 43 - 1.09% |

See [Appendix B](#) for more detailed information on the 2017 – 2018 data.

Range of Pickup Times:

| Time | <u>2016-2017</u> Actual | <u>2017-2018</u> Actual | <u>2018-2019</u> Actual |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| < 7:00 | 29 | 1 | 1 |
| 7:01 – 7:15 | 145 | 73 | 66 |
| 7:16 – 7:30 | 408 | 339 | 369 |
| 7:31 – 7:45 | 655 | 617 | 671 |
| 7:46 – 8:00 | 731 | 701 | 763 |
| 8:01 – 8:15 | 939 | 1015 | 986 |
| 8:16 – 8:30 | 405 | 660 | 630 |
| 8:31 + | 13 | 36 | 9 |

See [Appendix C](#) for more detailed information on the 2017 – 2018 data.

3. Fiscal

I am unable to provide information at this time regarding the deficit for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. It will be reported at the audit committee meeting in November.

4. Fleet Information

The total Bus Fleet consists of 82 units of which 13 are operated directly by the schools (12 White units and 1 Yellow). One white unit was taken out of operation in the 2017-2018 School year and one yellow unit was taken out of operation in the 2018-2019 school year. Nine of the units are over 12 years old and 73 units are under 12 years of age and are equipped with automatic transmission. 12 yellow buses have over 300,000 kms. Six of these buses are on regular routes. One of our shop trucks is 26 years old this year. All units are amortized over a ten year period. No new buses were purchased in 2018/2019.

5. Safety

- Our bus garage is a licensed Vehicle Inspection Facility for school buses. Our license expires February 28, 2020.
- All yellow buses receive semi-annual inspections by the personnel in our bus garage all of whom are Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanics.
- During the 2018 – 2019 School Year, 10 of our buses were subjected to a spot check conducted by Government of Alberta personnel – 9 buses met the required standards and recommendations – 1 unit was identified as having a defect which was:
 - A slow leak at the exhaust joint and drive shaft bearing had play

These defects were rectified by Bus Shop Personnel.

- Bus evacuation drills are held twice a year and are supervised by our Director of Transportation and Transportation Coordinator. The drills for the contracted routes are supervised by personnel provided by the contractors.
- There were two major accidents in the 2018 – 2019 year. There were 2 minor accidents.
 - The first major accident involved a Divisional School bus that was making a left hand turn off of Hwy 11A. The bus was stopped waiting for traffic to clear and had on their signal light, clearance lights and strobe light on. The bus was rear ended by a 1 ton pickup truck
 - The second major accident involved a First Student bus in the Drayton Valley area. The bus was T-boned while going through an intersection. There were some minor injuries to students, and one student was transported by ambulance to the hospital with a minor concussion. First Student conducted a

driver evaluation and retraining with the driver who was driving the bus at the time of the accident.

- The first minor accident was a driver parking their bus in their driveway when the bus slid on some ice and bumped into the driver's holiday trailer producing a small scratch on the bus
- The second minor accident was during a windstorm where the wind picked up the bus driver's trampoline at their residence and whipped it into the side of the bus leaving a small scratch.

6. Personnel

- During the 2018 – 2019 year, we hired six new drivers, and trained seven for their "S" Endorsement
- We hired a Transportation Coordinator in October to assist with office duties

7. Accomplishments

- Successfully entered into an agreement with Prairie Bus Lines to provide transportation to Wild Rose Students in the South part of the Division.
- Successfully completed "S" Endorsement training for all drivers prior to the implementation of the new government regulations.

8. Ongoing Initiatives

- Following the guidelines of our Safety and Maintenance Program to meet compliance with National Safety Code
- Continued efforts to find efficiency in our registration of new students
- Looking into the transition to Traversa which is a web based transportation program replacing Versa Trans.

9. Issues

- Need for public awareness on the rules surrounding the passing of school buses when stop arm, stop sign and alternating red lights are activated
- Complying with National Safety Code requirements in order to maintain our Safety Fitness Certificate to continue operations
- Dealing with competing interests in administering the Division's Inclement weather policy
- Dealing with the ongoing submission of correct information from schools in regards to Activity Bus Trips.