



Transportation Committee Meeting

Minutes

January 28, 2025
10:00 a.m.

The following people were in attendance:

Superintendent Mike Laub, North Royalton Middle School Principal Erin Calabrese, North Royalton High School Principal Kristin Hubbell, North Royalton Elementary Principal Kirk Pavelich, Director of Pupil Services Julie Bogden, Assistant Transportation Supervisor Ivette Colon, Transportation Supervisor Larry Lerch, Board Member Chris May, High School PTA Representative Tiffany Knapik, Board President Jackie Arendt, Superintendent Executive Administrative Assistant Cheryl Carcioppolo

1. Review of minutes from the December 11, 2024, meeting

It was discussed that the minutes from each meeting will be posted for the community and staff to view.

2. Potential options going forward

Superintendent Mike Laub stated that the ideal situation moving forward would be to stay where we are right now regarding the number of drivers and routes we currently have.

Mr. Laub explained that we are doing very well with our recruiting efforts. He would ultimately like to see us have 46-47 bus drivers. He also reminded everyone that this is a negotiation year with our unions and that this could positively affect our recruitment efforts.

This is how route times currently look:

High School		Middle School		Elementary School	
MORNING ROUTES					
Buses arrive approx. 6:55 a.m. School begins at 7:20 a.m.	55 minutes to get to next building	Buses arrive approx. 7:45 a.m. School begins at 8 a.m.	60 minutes to get to next building	Buses arrive approx. 8:45 a.m. School begins at 9 a.m.	
AFTERNOON ROUTES					
Dismissal is at 2:20 p.m. Buses leave at approx. 2:27 p.m.	40 minutes to get to next building	Dismissal is at 3 p.m. Buses leave at approx. 3:07 p.m.	20 minutes to get to next building	Dismissal is at 3:30 p.m. Buses leave at approx. 3:55 p.m.	

Below are the options that we looked at last year and continue to look at this year moving forward into the 2025-26 school year.

1. Stay the Same
 - This would be our best option if we can retain and hire drivers.
2. Eliminate High School Busing
 - We don't want to have to do this as one-third of our high school students ride the bus.
 - This would potentially cause parking issues as we don't have enough parking spaces to accommodate all drivers as sophomores get their licenses throughout the year.
 - The upside of this would be that it would assist with getting buses to the elementary in a more timely manner at the end of the day.
3. Change School Times
 - There was much discussion on how tweaking school times could assist with the elementary school after-school busing. Many scenarios were discussed, with one of them being to cut 10 to 15 minutes off the middle school end of day and start the elementary school 15 minutes later and end it 15 minutes later. This would allow extra time for our buses to arrive at the elementary school earlier and reduce ride times.
4. Combine High School and Middle School Routes
 - This was a solution we were going to try this year, however, we couldn't get the number of high school students to opt out of busing to make it a viable solution.
 - We could try and have high school students opt in instead of opt out, but it is not certain that this would make our numbers more accurate.

3. Other

Items of discussion that were brought up to think about as researching options:

- The high school morning routes need to consider students who attend Cuyahoga Valley Career Center.
- It was asked if it would be helpful if we only eliminated high school busing for juniors and seniors. The parking issue was discussed and we would probably not have enough parking spots for everyone.
- How would changing times at the middle school and elementary school affect special education transportation?

4. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. in the high school community room.