

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)

Thursday, October 1, 2015

State Board Room (4th Floor), John A. Hannah Building

**PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 – 10:15 a.m. – Hannah Building – State Board Room**

The subcommittee meets prior to the regular meeting to review and discuss agenda items in preparation for the regular meeting. PTAC representatives are welcome to attend. Topics covered include:

- a) Curriculum and Training
- b) Management and Best Practices
- c) State and National Issues

**PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon – Hannah Building – State Board Room**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Louis Burgess. The PTAC members observed a moment of silence for the passing of longtime Training Agency Association of Michigan (TAAM) and PTAC member Vince Weiler.

II. ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

All members and guests were asked to sign in. Guests included: Howard "Mac" Dashney, Transportation Consultant; Ronda Lyons, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT); Heather Lucas, MDE Education Consultant; Jean Ruestman, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); and Paul Wegmeyer, Transportation Director of West Ottawa Public Schools and MAPT Legislative Chairperson.

Members in attendance included:

Michigan Department of:

Education

Louis Burgess

Ken Micklash

Kevin Walters

Michigan State Police

Sgt. Mike McLaughlin (Primary)

Transportation

Lisa Lubahn (Primary)

State

Carol Reagan (Primary)

John Harris (Alternate)

Michigan Assn. for Pupil Transportation

Mark Niewoonder (Primary)

Darryl Hofstra (Alternate)

Michigan Assn. of School Business Officials

Jill Segal (Primary)

Michigan Education Association

Michael Shoudy (Primary)

Training Agency Assn. of Michigan

Lori Richardson (Primary)

Representing:

Northern Michigan Directors

William Coaster (Primary)

Private Contractors

Fred Doelker (Alternate)

Others

Howard "Mac" Dashney, Transportation Consultant

Rhonda Lyons, MAPT

Heather Lucas, MDE Education Consultant

Jean Ruestman, MDOT

Paul Wegmeyer, Transportation Director of West Ottawa Public Schools and MAPT Legislative Chairperson

III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

Carol Reagan requested an amendment to the minutes. In the Department of State information presented by John Harris, the age listed as 18 needs to be changed to 21. Lori Richardson moved and Jill Segal seconded to approve the minutes with one amendment. The motion passed.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bill Coaster moved and Fred Doelker seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

V. OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. MDE Initiated (Micklash)

1. Paul Wegmeyer, Transportation Director of West Ottawa Public Schools and MAPT Legislative Chairperson, reported on the "Enhanced School Bus Lighting Pilot Project." Paul updated PTAC on current status of a bill which would enhance school lighting on the rear portion of the bus. A sample system was provided and demonstrated for PTAC. Click on link to view [memorandum from Paul to PTAC members regarding the pilot project](#).

2. Sgt. Mike McLaughlin, Michigan State Police (MSP), provided a school bus inspection status update. Sgt. McLaughlin noted that the School Year 2014-15 inspection cycle was complete. In total, 15,988 buses were inspected with 10% receiving red cards; 5% receiving yellow cards; and 85% receiving a passing rate. (Note: for past years we have used 17,000 as the estimated number of buses state-wide.) The new inspection cycle, which started on September 1, 2015, maintains an accurate bus count for the State. The new on-line system has reports available. Contact Sgt. McLaughlin with ideas to improve the report. Michigan State Police will hire three new inspectors before November 26, 2015, for Ionia, Lansing, and Mt. Pleasant. Mac Dashney noted that the on-line bus inspection procedure video has been well received in the field. Click on link to view [the top ten school bus violations for school year 2015](#).
3. Mark Niewoonder, new Executive Director of the MAPT, shared comments related to MAPT. Mark noted that he would start his duties as Executive Director on October 5, 2015.
4. Heather Lucas, MDE Educational Consultant, provided an overview of transportation for Great Start Readiness Programs. Heather gave an excellent overview of the Great Start Readiness Program, the state-funded program for four year olds. Programs are executed at the ISD level. All programs are licensed by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Funding is a per slot allocation. Looking for changes to legislation to improve funding model to better cover transportation costs. \$10 million is appropriated for transportation. Click on link to view [the transportation requirements for child care centers](#).

VI. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS/ITEMS PRESENTED TO PTAC

- A. Curriculum and Training (Coaster/Richardson/Micklash)
 1. Supervisor Continuing Education – Update
Training is on-line and available on Mi-Stream.net. MSP (Sgt. McLaughlin), MDOT (Jean Ruestman), Michigan Department of State (John Harris), and MDE (Ken Micklash) are all involved in the training. Members at the table gave brief overview of the type of information that they include in the training.
 2. Beginning School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum – Update provided by Lori Richardson. Unit 6 has an update on bus stop.

3. Continuing Education School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum – Update provided by Ken Micklash.
Gary Davis will coordinate changes for the 2017-19 continuing education school bus driver safety education program. Changes will be reviewed by TAAM and sent to PTAC for approval. Click on link to view [the Michigan School Bus Driver Continuing Education Curriculum – 2017-2019 Potential Topics](#).

B. State and National Issues – (No items)

VII. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PTAC TO CONSIDER

A. Curriculum and Training – (No items)

B. Management and Best Practices – (No items)

C. State and National Issues

Sgt. McLaughlin noted that that there is a bill to increase the length of a school bus-trailer combination to 75 feet. This was proposed by an Upper Peninsula legislator. MSP will take feedback from PTAC members on the proposal.

VIII. ASSIGNMENTS FOR SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

A. MDE Initiated

1. To Curriculum and Training – (No items)
2. To Management and Best Practices – (No items)
3. To State and National Issues – (No items)

B. PTAC Initiated

1. To Curriculum and Training – (No items)
2. To Management and Best Practices – (No items)
3. To State and National Issues – (No items)

IX. OTHER ISSUES

A. The next meeting date is Thursday, February 4, 2016.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. by Louis Burgess.