

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)

Thursday, October 6, 2016
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 10:34 a.m. by Louis Burgess

II. ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

All members and guests were asked to sign in. Members were introduced and the guest was Howard "Mac" Dashney, Interim Executive Director, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT). Members in attendance included:

Michigan Department of:

Education

Ken Micklash

Kevin Walters

Louis Burgess

Michigan State Police (MSP)

Sgt. Mike McLaughlin (Primary)

Michigan State Police – Office of Highway Safety Planning

Linda Fech (Primary)

Transportation

Rob Pearson (Primary)

State

Carol Reagan (Primary)

Michigan Assn. of School Business Officials

Jill Segal (Primary)

Office of Great Start/Head Start Collaboration Office

Kaitlin Ferrick (Primary)

Representing:

Urban Directors

Carl Ingram (Primary)

Suburban Directors
Mary Delor (Primary)
Private Contractors
Fred Doelker (Alternate)

Others

Howard "Mac" Dashney, Interim Executive Director, MAPT

III. APPROVAL OF June 2, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

Fred Doelker moved and Carl Ingram seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Fred Doelker moved and Sgt. Mike McLaughlin seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

V. OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. MDE Initiated (Micklash)

1. Linda Fech, MSP Office of Highway Safety Planning, presented on the Strive 4 A Safer Drive program. This program is sponsored by the Ford Motor Co. \$1,000 grants are available to Michigan school districts to support young driver safety programs. The grants are competitive with enough funding to support 50 projects. During the 2015-16 school year there were 44 approved applicants. MDE will help advertise the program through the Thursday communication to all school districts.
2. Sgt. Mike McLaughlin, Michigan State Police, provided a school bus inspection update. The 2015-2016 bus inspection year ended on September 30, 2016. 15,833 school buses were inspected. There was a 4% increase in red tags. MSP has 11 inspectors and has plans to add a 12th. Sgt. McLaughlin provided a list of top ten violations for the 2015-2016 inspection period. The list varies from the previous year. The bus inspection application will allow for a comprehensive analysis of inspection trends once there is sufficient data, five years, to make comparisons.
3. Mac Dashney, MAPT, outlined MAPT initiatives being planned for coming year in order to improve services to membership. MAPT will partner with Michigan State University and University of Michigan on projects that will benefit the State. MAPT will work with MSP and provide quarterly pupil transportation updates for their membership. MAPT is also looking into the possible effects of recent medical marijuana laws and its implications on pupil transportation, driver certification, and liabilities.

4. Mac Dashney, MAPT, presented information related to the rear school bus lighting enhancement project. The pilot program involving 10 school districts last year was successful. Mac noted that there might be an effort to add rear school bus lighting specifications to the school bus inspection manual. Mac also reported on Representative Adam Zemke's interest in addressing overloading of school busses during the first month of school. MAPT has worked with Rep. Zemke addressing the implications of this proposed legislation.
5. Ken Micklash distributed a copy of the National Safety Council's Position/Policy Statement on Child Passenger Restraints which can be used as a resource for school districts when working with the child restraint issues. Click on [Child Passenger Restraint information from the National Safety Council](#) to view.

VI. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS/ITEMS PRESENTED TO PTAC

A. Curriculum and Training

1. Supervisor Continuing Education – Mac Dashney, on behalf of Bill Coaster, presented an update related to the previous supervisor training cycle that ended on 9/30/2016. The 2016-2018 cycle commenced on 10/1/2016. New Federal requirements have been introduced. The training always strives to include the latest federal legislation.
2. Beginning School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum – Ken Micklash shared information addressing this topic. Last year 2 of 9 modules were updated. Currently no updates are scheduled at this time. The training program is continually being reviewed to determine when new training unit adjustments must be developed.
3. Continuing Education School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum update was presented. Ken Micklash reported that the current program training for school bus driver's is ongoing. Planning for the next cycle is beginning. PTAC members that have ideas or issues which should be considered for inclusion in the next training cycle should pass on these ideas to Ken.

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

1. PTAC members: Lori Richardson, Kaitlin Ferrick, Mac Dashney, and Ken Micklash, at the June meeting, volunteered to prepare

for PTAC's approval a new Advisory Practice and Guideline addressing Pre-School Children Transportation Considerations. This document was presented to PTAC for approval. Discussion included the importance of this best practice. Jill Segal noted a recent incident involving transportation of younger children and after-school child care programs. Rules designed to address child safety may impact the manner in which transportation services are provided.

Mac Dashney moved and Carl Ingram seconded to accept the best practice as written. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of PTAC members present.

C. State and National Issues – (No items)

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 PTAC meeting is February 2, 2017.

B. Sgt. McLaughlin shared a recent phone call to MSP regarding un-inspected school busses being used to transport students in Metro Detroit area. MSP tracked down the service provider and a citation was issued.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. by Louis Burgess.