

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)

Thursday, June 7, 2018
State Board Room (4th Floor), John A. Hannah Building

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING 8:30 – 10:15 a.m. – Hannah Building – State Board Room
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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 10:32 a.m. by Ken Micklash in the absence of Louis Burgess who was on assignment in Wayne County.

II. ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

All members and guests were asked to sign in. Members were introduced, and the guests were Randy Coplin, Michigan State Police (MSP); Patricia Hifko, representing Special Education Transportation Directors (SETD); and Debra Swartz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Members in attendance included:

Michigan Department of

Education

Ken Micklash

State

Carol Reagan (Primary)

Transportation

Rob Pearson (Primary)

Michigan Assn. of ISD Administrators

Kim Hooper (Primary)

Michigan Education Association

Lisa Harrison (Primary)

Office of Great Start/Head Start Collaboration Office

Kaitlin Ferrick (Primary)

Training Agency Assn. of Michigan

Lori Richardson (Primary)

Representing:

Private Contractors

Fred Doelker (Alternate)

Suburban Directors
Mary Delor (Primary)
Urban Directors
Carl Ingram (Primary)
Guests
Randy Coplin, MSP
Patricia Hifko, SETD
Debra Swartz, MDEQ

III. APPROVAL OF February 1, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

Kim Hooper moved, and Lori Richardson seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Fred Doelker moved, and Kim Hooper seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

V. OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. MDE Initiated – Micklash

1. Inspector Randy Coplin, MSP, announced that Lt. Susan Fries recently retired, and he was presenting the PTAC update. Sgt. Danielle Stewart has assumed the role as person in charge of the School Bus Inspection Unit and will be assuming this full-time role during the upcoming summer months. 13,545 school buses have been inspected to date and all buses will be inspected by late August. MSP now reinspects 100% of Michigan school buses that were red tagged during the initial inspection process. An inspector left his position in the Upper Peninsula and will be replaced by late summer. Other staff are completing inspections in that area of the state.
2. Kaitlin Ferrick, Head Start State Collaboration Director, presented information related to criminal background check revisions. If a child care center contracts with or is established and operated by an intermediate school district, the board of the of a local school district, or by the board or governing body of a state-approved nonpublic school, then the school is responsible for the health and safety of children during transportation, and transportation is not considered a component of the child care program. Centers under this authority would not be required to complete a comprehensive background check on the transportation staff via the Child Care Background Check System.
3. Debra Swartz, MDEQ, presented information about the Volkswagen Consent Decree and two other air quality improvement programs for the replacement of school buses. The three programs are: (a) Federal EPA which has an RFP open now

under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). (b) MDEQ which has \$400,000 available for school bus replacement using either propane, CNG, or electric powered engines. (c) The Volkswagen Consent Decree school bus replacement program which is anticipated to begin on October 1st, the beginning of the state's new fiscal year. Schools can apply for funding from all three sources.

4. Mac Dashney, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT), was unable to attend the meeting. He submitted a written summary of MAPT legislative proposals that Ken Micklash reviewed. A few of the topics included: approval of a new "person in charge of school bus operations" safety education training program that new transportation directors could complete in lieu of the Beginning School Bus Driver training program which is now required, allowing members of non-profit organizations that are provided transport on school buses attending activities, events, or outing sponsored by a non-profit organization, and adding school buses to the list of vehicles exempt from Michigan frost laws.

VI. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS/ITEMS PRESENTED TO PTAC

A. Curriculum and Training - Coaster/Richardson/Micklash

1. Ken Micklash, in the absence of Bill Coaster, reported that the three-hour Part I of the Supervisor Continuing Safety Education Training Program is now complete and is available on-line. The three-hour Part II of this training program was completed on May 22, 2018 and will be available on-line by mid-July. Also reported was that the Northwest Transportation Consortium recently completed an extensive safety training program for Transportation Directors of this TAAM region.
2. Lori Richardson reported that there are no new updates for the Beginning School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum.
3. Lori Richardson indicated that training using the recently approved Continuing Education School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum has begun. Initial participant evaluations were very positive.

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 – (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 – An update related to two advisory practices: (a) Schools of Choice Transportation and (b) Usage of Vehicles with 10 Passengers (including the driver) or Less used for Pupil Transportation was provided by Ken Micklash. The review and editing process is continuing with a fall completion date anticipated.
3. To State and National Issues – (No items)

IX. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Meetings for 2018-2019: October 18, 2018, February 7, 2019, and June 6, 2019

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. by Ken Micklash.