

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)
Thursday, June 1, 2017
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 10:33 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 guests were Mac Dashney, Executive Director, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT); Spec/F/LT James Flegel, Michigan State Police (MSP); and Debra Swartz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Members in attendance included:

**Michigan Department of
Education**

Ken Micklash
Kevin Walters
Louis Burgess

State

Carol Reagan (Primary)

State Police

Sgt. Mike McLaughlin (Primary)

State Police – Office of Highway Safety Planning

Linda Fech (Primary)

Transportation

Rob Pearson (Primary)
Mallory Avis (Alternate)

Michigan Assn. of Intermediate School Administrators

Kim Hooper (Primary)

Michigan Assn. of School Business Officials (MSBO)

Jill Segal (Primary)

Office of Great Start/Head Start Collaboration Office

Kaitlin Ferrick (Primary)

Training Agency Assn. of Michigan

Lori Richardson (Primary)

Representing:

Rural Directors

Kevin Doty (Primary)

Suburban Directors

Mary Delor (Primary)

Urban Directors

Carl Ingram

Guests

Mac Dashney, MAPT

Spec/F/LT James Flegel, MSP

Debra Swartz, MDEQ

III. APPROVAL OF February 2, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

Fred Doelker moved and Kim Hooper seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jill Segal requested an addition to the agenda related to MSBO school bus specifications.

Kim Hooper moved and Lori Richardson seconded to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed.

V. OPENING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. MDE Initiated (Micklash)

1. Debra Swartz, MDEQ, presented an update on the settlement and the status of the national Volkswagen Decree for school bus replacement as it relates to Michigan. MDEQ is the lead agency in the state for determining projects to be supported. Michigan's final settlement is contingent on number of registered vehicles in the settlement. Multiple projects are being funded; a final determination of projects is to be announced. School bus replacement is a planned project. Michigan will receive approximately \$60.3 million to be spent over ten years from the Environmental Mitigation Trust. It is estimated that about \$32 million will be allocated for school bus replacement. The program is expected to begin within the next one to two years. Details for bus replacement options are currently under consideration. MDEQ will make recommendations on options and provide selection criteria. There may be match requirements to obtain funds to participate in program.

2. Spec/F/LT. James Flegel, MSP, presented information associated with the increased speed limits that was recently approved by the Michigan legislators. The MSP and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) have identified 600 miles of freeway and 900 miles of non-freeway for increased speed limits which follows legislation passed last year. The speed limit roadway signage will begin to change on May 1, 2017. All the signs are projected to be changed by mid-November. The speed limit increase was coordinated with MDOT and MSP. Although the speed limits are increasing, MDOT and MSP conducted speed studies to establish safe speeds in various designated areas throughout Michigan. Safety was always the top consideration. Speed limits increased primarily in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula and in the Upper Peninsula.
3. Sgt. Mike McLaughlin, MSP, indicated the School Bus Inspection Results for third quarter of 2016 will be posted by June 1, 2017, on MSP website. Click [here](#) to view the results. The results do not identify contract buses. School bus inspections are listed under the heading of each local entity that they are used for. MSP is on schedule to review 12,731 buses this year. The school bus inspection cycle will be completed in August 2017. Red tags have been running at average levels. The Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation has assisted MSP with the latest School Bus Inspection Manual update. The revised School Bus Inspection Manual is to be published after the MSBO's conference. If transportation directors need to review results from contracted buses they can contact Sgt. McLaughlin directly.
4. Mac Dashney, MAPT, outlined the conference schedule which is scheduled for June 19-22, 2017. Mr. Dashney presented an update on latest planning and events.

VI. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS/ITEMS PRESENTED TO PTAC

A. Curriculum and Training (Coaster/Richardson/Micklash)

1. Supervisor Continuing Education Update - In the absence of Bill Coaster, Mac Dashney presented a brief update related to the Supervisor Continuing Education Safety Training Program. Training can be presented as 2 three-hour segments or as a full day.
2. Beginning School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum Update - Lori Richardson noted that Michigan speed limit

increases will be included in training updates of the Beginning School Bus Driver Safety Education Training Program. Other updates, as necessary will be included as these required modifications become available.

3. Continuing Education School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum Update - Ken Micklash shared the 2019-2021 training program working draft which will provide the basis for this round of continuing education school bus driver safety education training.

B. State and National Issues (Hooper/Micklash)

1. Kim Hooper reported that Section 74 funds have a request to increase by \$400,000. This increase is still in the budget and is expected to be passed.
2. PTAC 2017 Re-Appointments – The MDE will send out requests for PTAC re-appointments, in early July, to the following: Michigan State Police, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation, Training Agency Association of Michigan, Michigan Association of School Boards, Private Contractors, Rural Michigan Transportation Directors, Special Education Transportation Directors, and School Bus Drivers.

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

1. Jill Segal, representing the MSBO, reported that the base school bus specifications have been updated to include rear stop arms. Emergency enhanced lighting may be considered an option.

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 2017-2018 PTAC meetings are scheduled for October 5, 2017, February 1, 2018, and June 7, 2018.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. by Louis Burgess.