

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)

Thursday, October 5, 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 10:30 a.m. by Ken Micklash, due to the unavailability of 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 Randy Coplin, Michigan State Police (MSP); Mac Dashney, Executive Director, Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT); and Debra Swartz, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Members in attendance included:

**Michigan Department of
Education**

Ken Micklash
Kevin Walters

State

Carol Reagan (Primary)
State Police – Office of Highway Safety Planning
Linda Fech (Primary)

Transportation

Rob Pearson (Primary)

Michigan Assn. of Intermediate School Administrators

Kim Hooper (Primary)

Michigan Assn. of School Business Officials (MSBO)

Jill Segal (Primary)

Training Agency Assn. of Michigan

Lori Richardson (Primary)

Representing:

- Northern Michigan Directors
 - William Coaster (Primary)
 - Donna Korzeniewski (Alternate)
- Private Contractors
 - Fred Doelker (Alternate)
- Rural Directors
 - Kevin Doty (Primary)
- Special Education Trans. Directors
 - Lisa Block (Primary)
- Suburban Directors
 - Mary Delor (Primary)

Guests

- Mac Dashney, MAPT
- Randy Coplin, 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

The following additions were made to the agenda:

Add under V. 7. Carol Reagan, Michigan Department of State to provide update related to Michigan Enhanced ID.

Add under VIII. B. 3. a. Advisory Practice for use of vehicles with less than 11 passengers.

Add under VIII. B. 3. b. Advisory Practice for "Schools of Choice" transportation.

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, provided information related to the Volkswagen Decree school bus replacement program. The trust effective date is October 2, 2017. States have 60 days to submit documentation to participate. MDEQ is the official state agency for Michigan. More funds will now be available. \$64.4 million, up from the original \$60 million, is designated for Michigan to be spent over a 10-to 15-year period. Old school buses will have to be removed from school fleets that are awarded funding. It is

anticipated that RFPs for grant funding opportunities will be available in approximately one year.

2. Inspector Randy Coplin, MSP, presented a school bus inspection report on behalf of Sgt. Mike McLaughlin, who was unable to be in attendance. School bus inspection information from 2016-2017 is now on the MSP website. 16,123 school buses were inspected last year. MSP did not allow self-reinspection's. 13% of school buses received red tags, 5% yellow tags, and 162 districts had 100% compliance. MSP is now proceeding with the 2017-2018 school bus inspection program.
3. Howard (Mac) Dashney, Executive Director, MAPT, shared a MAPT update. Several legislative initiatives are being pursued including: a. Exempting school buses from frost laws, b. Adding a new supervisor safety education program for state certification as an alternative to the beginning school bus safety education program, c. Adjusting hazard stop speed limits under certain conditions, and d. Revising MCL 257.1833 to include language addressing the matter of contractor's usage of school buses for non-school related transportation. Additionally, Mr. Dashney shared information about an upcoming MAPT Legislation Day to be held October 18, 2017.
4. Ken Micklash, MDE, distributed information related to the new Emergency Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint laws that were implemented with this new school year.
5. Kim Hooper, Wayne RESA, informed PTAC that the Training Agency Association of Michigan is taking steps to update the statewide school bus driver database moving to a centralized system. This enhancement will greatly improve the reliability of the maintained data.
6. Ken Micklash, MDE, provided an update of the Critical Shortage Disciplines for Employment of Retirees. The list includes all categories of special education including paraprofessionals that are assigned to a dedicated special education school bus route.
7. Carol Reagan, Michigan Department of State, shared information about the Michigan Enhanced ID system. The Real ID project began in August 2017.

VI. PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS/ITEMS PRESENTED TO PTAC

A. Curriculum and Training - Coaster/Richardson/Micklash

1. Supervisor Continuing Education – Bill Coaster reported the content for the next training cycle is currently being finalized.

2. Beginning School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum – (No update)
3. Continuing Education School Bus Driver Safety Education Curriculum – Lori Richardson reported that the safety education program for the next training cycle is also being finalized.

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 – (No items)
3. To State and National Issues
 - a. The idea of developing an Advisory Practice for the usage of vehicles with less than eleven passengers was discussed. The following persons will serve on a committee to develop this practice: Lori Richardson, Bill Coaster, Sgt. Mike McLaughlin, Howard (Mac) Dashney, and Ken Micklash.
 - b. The topic of “Schools of Choice” transportation was discussed. The committee that will be working on the advisory practice for vehicles with less than eleven passengers and will also work to develop an advisory practice for “Schools of Choice” transportation considerations.

IX. OTHER ISSUES

A. Next meeting is February 1, 2018.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. by Ken Micklash.