

Transportation Presentation

Whitman-Hanson
Regional School District
2023

What is Being Presented Today

- Language from the Regional Agreements 1991 and 2018
- School Committee Policies regarding transportation
- MA General Law Chapter 71 Section 7A
- Current transportation procedures
- Inconsistencies in the procedures
- Options
- Recommendations
- Start times

1991 Regional Agreement

School transportation shall be provided by the Regional School District and the cost thereof shall be apportioned to the member towns as an operating cost. The Regional School Committee shall determine on an annual basis whether or not non-mandated busing will be paid by the Regional School District. If the Regional School Committee decides not to provide non-mandated busing, an Article will be presented to the Selectmen's Office of each town for approval by the voters.

2018 Proposed Agreement

The District will provide pupil transportation for students who live more than one-and-a-half (1.5) miles from the school which they attend as pursuant to the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. The amount of Chapter 71, Transportation Reimbursement, will be subtracted from the cost of pupil transportation and this amount will be assessed to the towns based on pupil enrollment in all member towns in the District on October 1 of the preceding fiscal year for which the apportionment will be assessed.

The cost of pupil transportation for students who live less than one-and-a-half (1.5) miles from the school which they attend will be paid by the town in which the pupil lives. The percentage of the total of pupils being transported less than one-and-a-half (1.5) miles from each member town will be multiplied by the total cost and billed to each member town.

Chapter 71 Section 7A Transportation of Pupils, Payment, Cost, & Limitations

- (a) no reimbursement for transporting a pupil between school and home shall be made on account of any pupil who resides less than one and one-half miles from the school which he attends, measured by a commonly traveled route;
- (e) no reimbursement for transporting a pupil between school and home shall be made to a school system which does not certify to the department of education in a manner prescribed by the department that the average number of students transported over a period of an academic year does not equal or exceed seventy-five percent of the carrying capacity of the bus or other transportation system used by said school system; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any school district which is, or has been, subject to the provisions of a court-ordered busing program.

Regional School District Policies- Transportation

- EEAC- School Bus Scheduling and Routing
- EEAA- Walkers and Riders
- EEAE- School Bus Safety Program
- EEAEC- Student Conduct on School Buses

Current Transportation Practice

- All Kindergarten students are entitled to transportation privileges.
- Transportation will not generally be provided for grade 1-5 students who live less than three quarters of a mile from their elementary school of attendance.
- Transportation will not generally be provided for grade 6-12 students who live less than one and one half miles from their school of attendance.
- The distance from home to school shall be determined by:
 - Measurement of the most direct combination of roads, streets, highways, and public paths.
 - Measurement shall be determined from the front of the school to the front of the student residence.

Current Transportation Practice cont'd...

Students will be expected to walk to bus stops.

- Students in grades K-8 cannot cross Routes 14, 18, 27 and/or Rte. 58, except where a crossing guard is posted. Otherwise, they will be picked up on the right hand side of the road.
 - For students in grades K-5, bus stops will be located no more than one quarter mile from the student's home.
 - For students in grades 6-12, bus stops will be located no more than one half mile from the students' home.

Current Transportation Practice cont'd...

- District Transportation - All students that live 1.5 miles or further from their school will receive transportation as directed by MGL. All Kindergarten Students receive transportation regardless of distance.
- Hanson Transportations - All students, regardless of distance from home, are scheduled for a bus. Lack of sidewalks, crossing guards.
- Whitman Transportation - Elementary students who live .75 - 1.5 miles receive transportation. Students who live less than .75 miles are considered walkers. Middle School Students who live 1.5 or less from school are considered walkers *** boundaries that are drawn. Whitman uses crossing guards at cost of \$41,416.00, annual town meeting 2022.

Inconsistencies in Current Practice

- All students in Hanson receive a ride to school - Whitman Students do not
- There is a map around WMS (designating walkers) that has been used since the early 2000's, yet no one can determine who made the map. Guidelines state inside of 1.5 miles, grades 6-8 walk.
- Guidelines state elementary students who live .75-1.5 receive transportation
- Whitman uses crossing guards - Hanson does not, as no one walks

Options to Consider

- Busing all K students
- Discontinue busing for students who live under 1.5 miles
- Hanson continues to bus all students because of their demographics. (lack of sidewalks and routed roads)
- Whitman continues to bus students .75-1.5 miles but use a standard map which will determine eligibility for buses.
- Change the walking distance from .75 - .5 miles and bus students .5 - 1.5
- Bus all students who live under 1.5 miles from school

Recommendations

****Bus all students who live .5 miles from school according to district software, unless there is an extenuating circumstance, routed road, sex offender.**

9 students in Hanson will not be provided transportation

85 Students in Whitman will not receive transportation

***Bus all students in K-4 Hanson and K-5 Whitman and all students 5-12 Hanson and 6-12 Whitman who live more than .5 miles from school.**

16 Middle Students in Whitman will not receive transportation

Ask Whitman to eliminate crossing guards - saving the town \$41,416.00

Eliminate transportation for ineligible Kindergarten students

Start Time and Transportation Costs

Cost of aligning the elementary schools and changing the times in scenarios 1, 2, & 3

Scenario 1

Middle School 7:20 am - 1:50 pm
 High School 8:00 am - 2:35 pm
 Elementary 8:40 am - 3:10 pm

Scenario 2

High School 7:20 am - 1:55 pm
 Middle School 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
 Elementary 8:40 am - 3:10 pm

Scenario 3

High School 7:05 am - 1:40 pm
 Middle School 7:45 am - 2:15 pm
 Elementary 8:25 am - 2:55 pm

13 two run buses - @ \$ 449.64	\$ 5,845.32
10 three run buses - @ \$ 475.83	<u>\$ 4,758.30</u>
Total Per day	\$ 10,603.62
	<u>x 180</u>
Total Per Year	\$ 1,908,651.60
FY 24 Projected (no alignment)	\$ 1,694,132.00
<i>Suggest E/D</i>	<i>\$ 214,520.00</i>

Proposed Change to Arrival and Dismissal times only

Current Schedule	
High School	7:05 am - 1:40 pm
Middle Schools	7:40 am - 2:15 pm
Conley	8:40 am - 2:45 pm
Duval	9:15 am - 3:20 pm
Indian Head	9:05 am - 3:10 pm

Sample Schedule with Adjustment**	
High School	7:20 am - 1:55 pm
Middle Schools	8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Conley	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Duval	9:35 am - 3:35 pm
Indian Head	9:05 am - 3:10 pm

****no additional cost to the district**

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