

Ashford Board of Education  
Ashford, Connecticut

Transportation Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
September 20, 2018

**6:30 pm**

Ashford School  
District Office Conference Room 14

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. Present were committee members Kay Warren and John Calarese. Also present were Transportation Coordinator, Joan Celotti and Director of Pupil Personnel Cindy Ford. Present in the audience was Ashford driver Christina Siggins. Unable to attend was committee member Shannon Gamache.

**Review of Current Ashford School Bus Routes**

**a. Capacity**

**b. Length of Routes**

Mrs. Celotti addressed the committee with regard to the School bus routes and capacity of the busses on each route and spoke at length about all that goes into planning and routing of the bus routes in town to achieve a fair and equitable balance. The committee questioned the amount of time students are spending on the bus each day. She stated that no in town bus routes were longer than 56 minutes. The exceptions to this would be the out of town routes to Columbia and Manchester. She also informed us that the previous state law that stated “no student should be on a bus longer than 60 minutes” is no longer a mandate.

We reviewed how things have gone on the bus to this point, and the general consensus seems to be that things are going smoothly. Reviewed the new camera systems and were pleased to hear that they are doing the job they were intended to do... recording student activity and acting as a silent deterrent to negative behavior. Kay Warren inquired why drivers were using Supina Rd. as she was under the impression that the road was closed to bus traffic. Mrs. Celotti replied that this road is used to cross over to Waterfall Rd. for student drop off. Mrs. Warren will follow up with the first selectman’s office to confirm. There were also some discussion related to student drop off at Lunging Tiger Karate, however, that has been clarified.

**Discussion of Future Transportation Needs**

**a. BOE Cost Analysis vs. Outsourcing of Transportation**

There has been discussion at regular board meetings about gathering information on the cost of outsourcing student transportation services. Mrs. Ford shared her thoughts and concerns about special education transportation, noting the effectiveness and cost savings that are achieved by Ashford transporting its own special education students. Special education costs are often an additional expense in vendor transportation agreements.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Recorded by: Kay Warren and John Calarese