

**Call to Order**

Rob McElroy, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm, welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Committee Members present:

Rob McElroy

Simone Sangster

Kurt Gazow

Rae Anne Thon

Patrick Buckley

Kevin Terpstra

Kirsten Wert

Steve Ruthford

Tanya Rowe

Isabela Padilla

Rick Nicholson

Jonah Stinson

Mary E. Anderson

Kim Brown

Richard Drost

Drew Graham

(Lindsay Ahrens, recorder)

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of meeting of May 4 were approved with the following notes:

- Include member input to the WTA section of the group presentations
- Add comments about developing information to present to public for consideration of levy
- Change reference from Department of Ecology to University of Delaware in reference to study on electric buses

Final minutes will be posted to the district's website.

**Bus Tour**

Rae Anne Thon, Director of Transportation, led the group on a tour of several buses. She demonstrated some of the optional features such as the difference in seat size, and showed the difference in driver equipment, engine emissions, etc. between older and newer buses.

**Review From Last Meeting**

Simone Sangster, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, led the group through a [presentation](#) that addressed the major themes that emerged from the last meeting. This included a recap of the need for new buses, explanation of how we got here, and a history of the replacement/funding from the state and district.

Rae Anne Thon described costs of options not included on the basic ‘bid’ bus, the transportation needs of the district, and the growth in services (including additional programs and sites for students with special needs that have been added in the district since the May 4 meeting).

### **Draft Recommendation Review**

Rob McElroy led the group through a review of the draft recommendation document. Members reviewed the recommendation on their own and then with each other in pairs and groups of four before reporting back to the larger group.

Groups shared and discussed possible edits to the narrative and data of the report. Notes were taken and the draft will be revised.

### **School Bus Levy: [Springboard Proposal](#)**

Simone Sangster led the group through a presentation of a revised levy scenario that incorporated some of the new learning and discussion from last meeting. The scenario will help inform the final recommendation because it includes the costs of the additional buses, the added technology, and the effective tax impact.

There was discussion about allocating a specific dollar amount for electric buses and providing language in the recommendation to highlight a commitment by the district to this end. Some members felt strongly that the group recommend purchasing electric buses as a part of this levy; others felt it would be suitable to mention a purchase dependent upon more research; others felt it would be better for the district to consider electric bus purchase an option without specifically committing to it in the recommendation.

### **Recommendation**

Rob polled the room about the status of the recommendations. A color coded card system was used for voting: green indicates full support of the recommendation; yellow indicates a member has more questions/needs more information; red indicates non-support.

- 1) Update the fleet with 22 new buses: 13 green 0 yellow 0 red
- 2) Add 10 new buses to accommodate the change in start-end time: 13 green 0 yellow 0 red
- 3) Add 4 new buses to provide additional services (‘Promise’ Buses) 13 green 0 yellow 0 red
- 4) Provide student-safety technology on-board

Vote one - all technologies - cameras, GPS, wifi: 3 green 7 yellow 3 red

It was evident the technologies needed to be separated and voted on individually.

Vote two - cameras: 13 green 0 yellow 0 red

Vote three - GPS: 12 green 1 yellow 0 red

Vote four - wifi: 1 green 5 yellow 7 red

An additional recommendation for future follow up - continue to review sustainable and alternative transportation, including but not limited to, electric buses, biking, walking.

**BPS – Transportation Levy Planning Advisory Group**

**Transportation Office**

**Wednesday, May 18, 2016 1-5 pm**

Members were polled for interest to serve on the campaign committee: Kirsten Wert, Patrick Buckley, Drew Graham offered interest.

**Next steps**

The draft recommendation will be revised to include member input/edits and sent out by email for confirmation from the group that their thoughts and ideas were accurately reflected before the report is submitted to Dr. Baker for his consideration.

**Closing**

Rob McElroy closed the group at 4:45 pm