



It is the mission of the Mansfield Public Schools, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that each and every child develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement and personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our local and global community.

**Mansfield Board of Education
Transportation Committee Meeting
September 29, 2022
APPROVED Minutes**

Attendees: Katherine Paulhus, Edith Allison, Jeannette Picard, Martha Kelly, Peter Dart, Superintendent

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Mrs. Paulhus.

Mrs. Paulhus welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of this committee.

Eleven members of the public addressed the Board during the opportunity for public comment:

Janine Pender, parent, described her household's experience, the lack of routine especially for younger children and the burden this is placing on extended family.

Ms. Picard arrived at 7:11pm.

Suzie Gormley, parent, read a letter she wrote regarding her first graders' first day of school.

Brian Coleman, Town Council member, requested more information and transparency and asked the committee to look at route logistics.

Liz Holzer, parent, indicated there are inefficiencies with routes and asked about technology and logistics.

Miranda Davis, parent, shared the unknown is taking a toll on her family and the "bus strain" started last year. She cited poor communication and the bus contract not being fulfilled and asked if a child tracking system is an option.

Rachael Macht, parent, described her elementary-age child's experience and asked if there could be bus monitors and utilizing a bus app.

Christina Day, parent, read a letter sent from the PTO to Michael Beebe, Owner M&J Bus, Inc. and Superintendent Dart and also the idea of a bus app and having separate buses and pick up times.

Lauren Valentin, parent, reported when she contacted the school to make arrangements for her child to take a friend's bus she was advised there is a form requiring two signatures and she was not aware of the form until then.

Heather McDonald, parent, spoke for others who do not have the resources or flexibility she has. She voiced a concern regarding safety for children on bicycles at MMS.

David Slesinki, parent, asked questions and made suggestions to be considered such as the timeline of the driver hiring process, utilizing town employees to help with the driver shortage, combining stops, and other vendors.

Shawn Beebe, parent, indicated incorrect buses have stopped at her private road bus stop and asked about an ID system matching students with the adult at their bus stop.

Mr. Dart presented his Superintendent's Report.

Jaime Russell, Director of IT, indicated MPS is partnering with M&J regarding technology and that an RFP for transportation technology (software and hardware) was recently posted.

Mrs. Paulhus proposed the committee meet again on or about October 13th.

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Picard.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jil Corso, Board Clerk