

Roxbury School District: Transportation

It should be noted that the Transportation Department, Administration, and Board of Education have completed the 'review and analyze' phase. A powerpoint presentation will occur at the June 6th BOE meeting.

FAQ

1. Are we outsourcing?

The short answer is no. However, we have had several incidences this year where we have not had enough bus drivers to cover athletic events. This is partially due to the way routes have been scheduled. We are looking into the most cost effective way to handle this situation. Discussion at this point has included hiring our present drivers as afternoon subs or contracting with a local company to act as "backup" if we are unable to cover the run with our own drivers. No final decision has been made at this point. We plan on completing a cost analysis.

2. How are routes being determined?

The results of routing and scheduling have the utmost impact on the safety of our students. It also has the largest financial impact on a school district's transportation expense. Routing is determining the path a school bus will take to serve the students at designated stops in an area. The routes and bus stops will be determined based upon student residency. There will be multiple stops on the route as needed. The routes will be tiered to maximize efficiency. The roads traveled are another consideration. In order to board students on a busy road, the bus may have to take a longer route to wind up on the correct side of the road where students will not have to cross the street to board.

3. Have the bus drivers had any input into the decisions or an opportunity to review?

Yes. In areas where there is specific concern, the drivers of those routes have been consulted. Moreover, the Transportation Director has driven most of the routes in

Roxbury to ensure that she is familiar with the areas. In addition, we have updated our maps through our routing program to ensure that we have the most accurate and update information on Roxbury's roadways.

4. Will students be allowed to bring instruments and projects on the bus?

There is no change in the transportation of musical instruments. If a student is transporting a flute, the student will bring it as always. In cases where students have very large instruments, Roxbury's music department supplies an instrument to be used at school. The practice for bringing instruments and projects has not changed.

5. Will the time for a route increase?

Yes. Currently, we have buses that are at less than 30% capacity. We will work to be more efficient in this area. Buses will be filled to a reasonable capacity. Boarding more students will take more time. In addition, some buses will need to take a longer route to pick up students on the right side of the road which will require more time. Most routes will be within the twenty minute to half hour range. The areas which are the furthest ends of town maybe a little longer due to the location of the schools.

6. Will students have to walk a greater distance to their bus stop?

This is a difficult question to answer because it is based on comparing an individual student's current distance to his/her bus stop to next year's designated bus stop. For some students, it will be closer, others about the same, and others further. Bus stops are chosen based upon the location of all students in one area.

7. Do we provide courtesy busing and what does that mean?

According to statute, a district is required to provide busing for students who live within certain parameters. For students in grades K through 8, busing is required if they live beyond 2.0 miles. For high school students, busing is required if they live beyond 2.5 miles. In Roxbury, it has been a tradition to extend courtesy busing for certain roads as well as daycares. This has not changed.

8. Are bus drivers going to be laid off?

It's no secret that our student population has decreased in Roxbury. As such, we are losing some teaching positions this year. With the continued decrease in student population and the creation of more efficient routes, there will be a decrease in the need for bus drivers as well.

With current retirements and the near completion of routes, we were able to bring back drivers. They will be on the June 6th BOE agenda.

9. How do we compare to other school districts?

Currently, we have 53 drivers for our 3000 students who require transportation. In districts with over 4400 students, they have 47 to 50 drivers. A district relatively similar to ours with 3600 students who require transportation, has 34 drivers with 12 substitutes. Since we value our drivers and believe they are an important part of our community, we have continued to analyze, research and look for creative ways to keep as many drivers as possible. The process of change is not taken lightly and only becomes necessary when there are more effective ways to get things done. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers of Roxbury as well.

10. Most importantly, how are we ensuring safety?

We are ensuring safety in a number of ways.

- a. We are designing pick-ups on busy roads so that children will not need to cross the street.
- b. We are reviewing problem areas.
- c. We are not allowing anyone on the bus who doesn't belong. If a special education child's IEP requires a monitor, we will hire one.
- d. We will continue training our younger students so that they can fasten seatbelts for themselves.
- e. We have reinstated monthly and state mandated training for all of our bus drivers. This includes defensive driving which decreases the district's insurance costs.
- f. We are in the process of installing cameras for all vehicles both outside and inside. This will provide security for our students and drivers at all times. The cameras are state mandated and for the protection of the district.