



STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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To: Robert J. O'Donnell
 From: Randy L. Brown and Van E. Swauger
 Date: December 1, 2017
 Subject: Student Day - Transportation

The district continues to review the impact on district transportation operations by the proposed changes to the student day. In the last update, the administration estimated increased transportation costs of \$250,000 to \$550,000, representing the addition of five to 10 bus routes necessary for transporting the SCASD and non-SCASD students. For your reference, non-SCASD students include:

- **Charter Schools** - Young Scholars, Nittany Valley, and Center Learning Community
- **Private** - Nittany Christian, Our Lady of Victory Catholic, Friends, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Grace Prep, Grier, Centre County Christian Academy, St. John's Catholic, Park Forest Montessori, Grace Lutheran, and Our Children's Center.

In addition, School Bus Consultants (SBC) has provided the results of their analysis to date. SBC Representative Mike Archer will be present at the next meeting to present findings and comparisons of other districts. The administration provided SBC with transportation cost and bus routing information to inform this process.

SBC's presentation is an initial step in its analysis. Remaining steps include the finalization of bus route redesign, following confirmation of schedule times by all schools, and a final report of analysis and recommendations. The administration has worked closely with SBC to improve understanding district operations and ensure the highest quality analysis and resulting recommendations.

The district's work with the non-SCASD schools to date assumes the following schedule:

- **Morning:** Non-SCASD students will be transported on dedicated bus runs to a central location (high school) before being shuttled to their respective schools, with the exception of the three kindergarten schools which will be transported on shuttle vans or buses due to their time schedules and number of students.

- **Afternoon:** Non-SCASD students will be transported from respective schools to a central location (high school). These students will be loaded onto buses with SCASD high school students for the trip home. Students attending Our Lady of Victory Catholic may be the exception to this process pending a decision on their dismissal time as well as the three kindergarten students who will be transported on shuttle vans or buses as in the morning.

Transportation costs have been refined resulting in an estimated cost increase of \$350,000 for additional bus routes and increased driver hours each day based upon the longer schedule. These estimates are within the original budgeted cost of \$550,000. The cost estimate will be further refined as the transportation routes are finalized.

Our proposal also includes the cost of replacing six buses for the 2018-2019 school year. The net cost after trade-in of equipment, in excess of the annual budget allocation for school bus purchases, is \$200,000.

The administration sees the following open questions and implications:

- Verification of dismissal time of the non-SCASD schools
- Scheduling of athletic and activities field trip arrangements resulting from the new student day schedule
- Design of transportation routes for SCASD and non-SCASD students based upon schedules for all schools

Further updates will be provided as resolutions of these items are achieved.