



Minutes from Traffic Considerations Conversation

Date of Meeting: 10/12/16

Attendees: José Carrión, Vincent Bettina, Kristen Crandall, Lori Jiava, Daren Lolkema, William McClellan, Eileen True, Amy Watkins, Jean Higgs, Robert Gray, Jason Maietta

Declined Invitation: Jon Baisley, Robert Balkind, Kim Catalano, Mark Debald, John Hickman, Robert LaColla, Marc Pfeifer, Glenn Scofield, Michael Simon, Thomas Weiner, Eoin Wrafter

Review of data sheet by Ms. Crandall. Sharing current enrollment, number of buses traveling to each school and between the JHS and HS for feeder schools. Ms. Crandall also provided the number of student parking passes for each high school. The goal is to provide the BOE with as much information as possible to make an informed decision.

Mr. Maietta brought up the Fishkill Recreation After-School program - would need to know in order to adjust their program times that occur in the school and inform their staff. These are only after school programs. No before school programs are currently offered.

Mr. Carrión shared the history of our arrival and dismissal procedures in which students arrive to the school prior to the opening of the building. We are internally working to adjust our routing times to ensure we do not have students sitting on the bus longer than necessary.

Ms. Jaiva asked how this would impact the Parochial School transportation. Ms. Crandall explained they will remain on their own tier. Ms. Jiava shared that the Old Hopewell Road closure should be considered, but feels the 2 tier system would be great.

Mr. Bettina asked if we had a feasibility study. WCSD shared we are using the 2011 study. County roads are handled by the county. The towns handle the ancillary roads.

Ms. Jiava asked Ms. Crandall if we should/could consider adding a traffic light at Myers Corners Elementary School.

Mr. Carrión spoke about where the parents drop-off their children at Myers Corners Elementary School and the history the District has about discussions for District Office re-location. Asking if Fenmore Road would be a safer way for parents to depart for drop-off students than the current route.

Ms. Jiava mentioned that Wappingers JHS buses exit to Remsen Avenue. There would be no buses turning onto Middlebush Road during arrival or dismissal at Wappingers JHS.

Ms. Jiava also mentioned that there are several major road construction projects coming up in the next few years. There will be a meeting on October 20 or 21, Mr. McClellan will let us know so the District can be aware and take proactive steps.

In an effort to control traffic flow, the DOT can be contacted about addressing green time on lights. Currently the lights are on sensitivity based on traffic flow and adjust themselves as needed.

Mr. Bettina mentioned the “knob” on Myers Corners Road and an upcoming road project. Temporary lights may be installed Mr. Bettina feels “we” need to work with them (DOT) on the timing of the lights.

Mr. Carrión noted that currently on 3 tiers, the buses cannot stagger and get to their next run timely but with a 2 tier system we would have additional time to allow them to stagger. This will reduce traffic flow stressors.

Mr. McClellan asked what we were doing at John Jay HS and the parking for students. Ms. Crandall explained how they currently move students and vehicles.

Mr. Carrión shared that JJ students cannot be sitting on a bus for 15 minutes before being released at 7:00 am. The District is conducting an audit to address these concerns this school year.

Mr. McClellan stated that Route 52 is a problem and students are crossing Route 52 to get to the shopping centers and school. Suggested we utilize the new Dome’s parking during the day to eliminate the students parking/walking on Route 52. He would suggest speaking to the Dome people. Mr. Carrión said in order for that to happen we would need financial assistance.

Ms. Jiava asked about looking into a TAP grant to help alleviate a safety issue. Mr. Lolkema shared that the Dome is looking into creating a walkway across Route 52 to Dunkin Donuts.

Ms. Jiava asked if we have any agreements with the Dome people to see if they would do a MOU. Ms. Jiava will share what information she can find on grant opportunities for the District. Ms. Crandall can then speak to NYS regarding compliance for school districts.

Mr. McClellan suggested looking into taking over parking from the West complex at GlobalFoundries for John Jay's use. They are in the process of subdividing the parcel into 8 pieces. The highway would take over the "ring" road.

When asked about how to proceed with a feasibility study, Mr. Bettina said you would need a traffic consultant to do it. Mr. Carrión mentioned that it is important to note that three out of fifteen schools are being impacted. We are not creating complete mayhem, but joining the two JHS (only grades 7 & 8) and moving Myers to the elementary runs. Ms. Jiava will look for any recent car counting studies for certain times, if we would like it for Myers. Ms. Crandall will follow up with Ms. Jiava.

Mr. McClellan asked who we contact for inclement weather. Ms. Crandall stated local, state and county for feedback but often times those offices are closed.

Ms. Crandall said she would write a letter requesting weather input from local law enforcement as needed. Mr. Carrión mentioned that we test the roads with our buses on the roads before making a call. WCSD has to make the weather call first because of the travel times and the size of the district is 128 square miles.

Mr. Carrión shared that all of the students with an IEP get a personalized phone call to let them know what we are doing.