

MAPT  
800 Main Street, Suite 267  
Holden, MA 01520  
www.mapt.us

**Special Education Transportation Task Force  
June 25, 2018  
Minutes**

Members present: Colleen Cavanaugh, John Hennessey, Margaret Driscoll, Carla Jentz, and Jay Sullivan.

Meeting Convened at 1:00 PM.

**Contract Work**

**District Reviews:** A final review for the year is being conducted for R.C. Mahar Regional School District. Interviews will be scheduled with districts that had the review a year ago to discuss savings realized. Several of these districts have indicated an interest in participating in a panel presentation at a future MASBO meeting.

**Presentations:** Ms. Cavanaugh is waiting to hear back from Ms. Jennifer Handy, MASC, as to having a table at the MASC/MASS joint conference in November.

Ms. Jentz will draft a letter to the Commissioner of Education to inform him of the initiative and to garner his support. The letter will include the history of the project and the importance of the continued work of the Task Force.

It was discussed to hold a “Save the Drive” event in the fall once the website is complete.

Brochures will be distributed at the MASBO and ASE meetings in the fall.

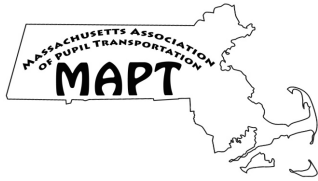
**Stakeholder Input:** Does an opportunity exist for the Task Force to assist in the newly regulated training component in the RMV regulations? Recommendation to develop potential topics for training. A role exists for MAPT to support training, develop standards and serve in an advisory capacity for districts.

What are the issues and concerns folks have around special education transportation, what are they dealing with? Ms. Jentz will discuss with her board when they meet next. This will be most helpful in targeting work that can be done to assist districts.

How can the project be marketed more effectively? Suggested to include language, “What should be in your contract specifications to save money?”. Testimonials and documentation from past reviews will be compiled to assist in this effort. Ms. Cavanaugh informed members that districts may not want a full review but as part of the contracted work she can visit districts and discuss their special education program and look at possible ways they can save money and create greater efficiencies.

The Task Force was created from an outside section of the budget. The language was part of Chapter 49 of the Acts of 2004.

SECTION 291. Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, there shall be a special commission to study and report on methods to reduce the cost of transportation for students with disabilities to out-of-district special education placements. The commission shall consist of the co-chairs of the joint committee on education, arts, and humanities, who shall serve as chairs of the commission, and 1 representative each from the operational services division of the division of purchased services, the department of education, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Association for Special Education Administrators, the Massachusetts Organization for Educational Collaboratives, the Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools and the School Transportation Association of Massachusetts. The scope of



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the commission's inquiry shall include, but shall not be limited to: the regulation of reasonable and allowable transportation costs by the operational services division, the use of educational collaboratives to coordinate or provide transportation services to students with disabilities to out-of-district programs and the establishment of regulations by the department of education to permit the exchange of student information necessary to coordinate transportation routes to out-of-district programs. The commission shall submit its report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on education, arts, and humanities not later than January 30, 2005, along with drafts of any legislation.

Meeting dates were discussed for next year:

October 10, 2018	10:00 AM**	Changed to October 11, 2018
January 9, 2019	1:00 PM**	Changed to January 8, 2019
April 3, 2019	10:00 AM	
June 26, 2019	12:30 PM	

All meetings will be held at MASBO, 87 Elm Street, Hopkinton, MA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Cavanaugh