

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

**Special Education Transportation Task Force
January 7, 2020
Minutes**

Members present: Colleen Cavanaugh, Margaret Driscoll, Carla Jentz, Joanne Haley-Sullivan, James Daiute, Jay Sullivan and Craig Delmonte.

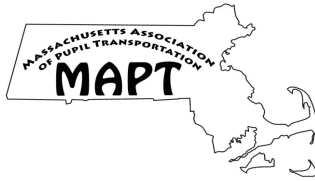
Meeting Convened at 10:00 AM.

Contract Updates

- Year End Summary Report
 - Suggested that cost comparison between special education and regular transportation be provided in the future.
- Commissioner Letter
 - The letter created by the Task Force was mailed to the Commissioner on June 18, 2019. It was recommended to change the verbiage the letter suggests for the Commissioner to share in an upcoming briefing from referencing the SpedtransSavings website to reference the Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation website (www.mapt.us). The MAPT website has been fully revised and shares information on the Taskforce and links to the SpedTransSavings website. Jay Sullivan will work with the Commissioner on this.
- MASS/MASC Conference
 - A presentation was made at the November MASS/MASC conference and was well received. Several Superintendents expressed an interest in the special education transportation review process. Suggestion made to be present at the Mass Municipal Association, this will be explored.
- Special education reviews have been completed this year for the Gardner Public Schools, currently in process for Westford Public Schools, scheduled Whitman Hansen, Maynard Public Schools and Brockton Schools in the process of being scheduled.

Other

- Regulation changes for 7D (small vehicle transportation) were reviewed. All 7D renewal applicants must receive 8-hours of in-service training by June 30, 2020. Vehicles must have a child reminder system and have seating capacity for no more than 10 passengers effective October 1, 2020. Effective October 1, 2019, all new hires must receive 2-hours of pre-service training before applying for a 7D certificate, vehicles must have an interior school bus light indicator, an audible backup alarm and a fire extinguisher with a hose and a rating of 2S10BS or greater.
- State Commission on Transportation-Jay Sullivan will check with Representative Alice Peisch's office to obtain the final recommendations prepared by the committee.



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- Jay Sullivan discussed the language established under the Student Opportunity Act relative to out-of-district transportation reimbursement. Meetings are being conducted with Collaboratives across the state to discuss the implementation and how this will be reported. A recent survey sent to school districts requested they state if they contract, own and operate or support a combination of both. Based on the response to date the majority of districts contract out. Districts that run their own operation will have to complete a cost allocation plan. More information will be forthcoming from the Department.

Stakeholder Input

- The brochure created to advertise the initiative was distributed and members were asked to provide input and suggest any changes that should be made. It was stated that the title page verbiage be changed from “Program Supported by the State Special Education Transportation Taskforce...” to reference the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The brochure will be sent electronically to folks for input. Carla Jentz requested 275 copies to be distributed at the ASE, March 20th conference.

Future meeting dates, April 15 and June 16, 2020. The meeting space location will be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Cavanaugh