

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ILLINOIS PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 13, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Beck
Kevin Duesterhaus
Patrick Johnson
Corrie Ray
Mike Slife
Jeff Smith
Mike Stier
Julie Wollerman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cathy Allen
Tom Beck
Derrick Berlin
Beth Derry
James Fleischman
John Hawkins
Brad Hulick
Tim Imler
Tammi Kestel
Paul Losos
Debora McCleary
Mike Medin
Mark Morten
Clayton Naylor
Jim Nelson
Pat O'Brien
Chip Pew
Mike Reinders
Kim Rentner
Charlie Semple
Matt Snyder
Dan Thompson

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Mike Slife.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 MINUTES:

Julie Wollerman made a motion to approve the September minutes, Jeff Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

FY17 Funding – Tim Imler

In Tim’s absence, Mike informed members that the Regular Ed Transportation would be funded at 71% and Special Ed Transportation at 92% and that the June 2016 payment should be made by December 31, 2016.

NASDPTS Review of November Conference – Mike Slife

Mike provided some highlights from the NASDPTS conference he attended in November. While there, they were updated by the following federal agencies: the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). NHTSA has been working on accident data from various school bus crashes that involved fatalities. Their research is finding that school buses would be safer if they had seat belts. The NTSB has also come out and stated that school buses are the safest form of travel to and from school but that they could be safer if they had seatbelts. NHTSA previewed a new video that will be going out stating the benefits of the school bus and its current safety features with a push to get seatbelts. TSA covered terrorism and the use of school buses. They handed out a School Bus counterterrorism guide to help train drivers. The EPA covered the DERA money and grand projects to purchase new school buses with cleaner emissions as well as the VW settlement that will push money to each state.

There were also university studies on school bus evacuations and stop arm violations, what local directors expect from their state directors and service animals on the bus.

Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse – Mike Slife

Mike provided a handout regarding the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. It is a database under the Agency's administration that will contain information about violations of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) drug and alcohol testing program for the holders of commercial driver's license (CDLs).

Illinois has until 2020 to get this up and going.

Minimum Training Requirements for Entry Level CMV Operators – Mike Slife

Mike provided a handout regarding the Minimum Training Requirements for Entry Level CMV Operators. FMCSA establishes new minimum training standards for certain individuals applying for their CDL for the first time or a school bus (S) endorsement for the first time. These individuals are subject to the entry-level driver training (ELDT) requirements and must complete a prescribed program of instruction provided by an entity that is listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry (TPR). FMCSA will submit training certification information to State driver licensing agencies (SDLAs), who may only administer CDL skills tests to applicants for the Class S endorsements, after verifying the certification information is present in the driver's record.

Mike Stier questioned if they drivers will have to be registered or if this will be done on the honor system. It was noted that they will have to be registered and there will be a curriculum for this.

Illinois has until 2020 to get this up and going as well.

NTSB Seat Belt Video – Mike Slife

- ***Tennessee Bus Crash***
- ***Utah Bus Crash***

The NTSB put out a video on how safe school buses are right now. They talk about seat belts and how they save lives. This brought up the topic of the Tennessee Bus Crash as well as the Utah Bus Crash. In the Tennessee bus crash, 5 students were killed when the bus flipped over and wrapped around a tree. The bus didn't have seat belts. In Utah, a special-needs school bus overturned but no students were injured because everyone on the bus was wearing a seat belt.

U.S. House Bill on Seat Belts HB 6461 – Mike Slife

This House Bill would fund school bus 3- point seat belts. Rep. Steve Cohen representing the 9th District of Tennessee introduced legislation that would require federal funding to equip all newly purchased large school buses in the U.S. with lap-shoulder belts, and it would penalize states for not passing school bus illegal passing and driver background laws.

Patrick Johnson stated that Tammy Duckworth is pushing to federalize seat belts on school buses. There was a lot of discussion on the pros/cons of seat belts on school buses. Some of the cons were as follows:

- Will decrease seating capacity
- Smaller children are unable to buckle/unbuckle themselves
- Can a driver/aid get everyone unbuckled in a timely manner in case of an emergency

It was also noted that enforcement of wearing the seat belts would be hard as well. There have also been incidents on buses with seat belts where kids were injured because they weren't being used properly (i.e. kids hitting each other with them or cutting them).

Kevin stated that the SOS is open to ideas and suggestions but that his office will support the seat belts and that they have discussed the costs and pros/cons.

Mike Stier said that the IEPT is gathering information but they don't have an answer.

Mike asked if he needs to put something together about if/when we get seat belts on school buses.

Bill Beck suggested putting something together to pass to our legislators in Washington about the pros/cons of seat belts on buses.

Initial Training for Division 1 Drivers (SB requirement) – Julie Wollerman

Julie talked about drivers asking if there could be a training specific for Division 1 drivers ONLY. They are sitting through training for driving a bus but they aren't going to be driving a bus. Kevin said he will check into it.

Active Shooter/Terrorism – Jeff Smith

Jeff gave an update about what the Countywide Safety Committee learned regarding awareness about an active shooter and terrorism.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bus Assistant Training Guide –Mike Slife

Mike sent out School Bus Attendant Training Guides, which were published by Kane County, to ROE's and school districts.

Upcoming IPTAC Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Other Business – Mike Slife

Kevin Duesterhaus introduced Donna Cooper and Cara Hill from the Secretary of State's office.

It was mentioned that the current IL Register on the SOS website still references the old CDL testing requirements before the 2015 changes were made.

Julie asked if the meetings could be moved to avoid the 1st Tuesday of the month since that is when they have their Superintendent meetings.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Beck and seconded by Julie Wollerman.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2017.