



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA

1547 N STATE ST. PMB 203, GREENFIELD, IN 46140

www.stai.us



MISSION STATEMENT: *The School Transportation Association of Indiana is dedicated to providing its members with education and training opportunities in order to enhance safe school bus transportation for Indiana children.*

STAI BOARD MEETING: School Transportation Association of Indiana

Minutes

Washington Township Transportation Center

NOV 15, 2011

10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

OFFICERS; *Past-Pres- Jim Scroggins NP, Pres - Mike Mentzel, VP – Mike Clark NP, Treasure – Lynn Hower, Secretary - Monica Coburn, Director(s) at Large; Martha Allen, Mark Campbell, Monica Coburn, Della Swain*
Regional Directors; *1-Pam Skoglund NP, 2-Amy Rosa via conference call, 3-, 4-Bo Bowman NP, 5-, 6-Mark Clawson, 7-Sallie Davis NP, 8- Justin Wilczynski NP, 9-Guy Gentry, 10-Tim Fosbrink, REPRESENTATIVES: IN Dept of Ed-Mike LaRocco, IN St Police-Steve Whitaker NP, Sp-Needs-Julie Ely, IN St School Bus Committee & Technicians Rep-Dwayne Vandiver, Professional Develop-Patty Waites NP, Conference Committee-Joyce West, Vendor Representative-Denis Wiger, IN School Bus Drivers Assoc-Penny Wright NP, Contractor Representative-Randy Armes NP, Head Start Assoc-Pam Brown NP*

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Since the meeting was partially held via phone conference (Amy Rosa). They could not actually have visual on minutes. In order to not read entire previous minutes the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Monica has gotten the membership information and will be working to update that list.

FINANCIAL REPORT BETH REYNOLDS/LYNN HOWER: We have a reported cash balance of **72,468**. The conferences are the main reason we are doing so well, we are up 29,000 dollars. Beth states that an audit will need to be done for 2012. Now is the time to start looking for a company.

Beth will be setting the budget for next year and bring it the next board meeting.

Mike Mentzel discussed with Lynn Hower about persons with outstanding debt who owe STAI from the 2010 books. This needs to be cleared up. Mike will sign the letters to be sent once he sees them. Lynn mentioned that that the conference fees being separated from the membership fees make collecting membership fees hard. *Lynn Hower moved to move conference fees and membership fee back together. Mark Campbell seconded and the motion was carried.*

Guy Gentry motioned to accept the Financial Report and to accept vouchers for payment. Dwyane Vandiver seconded and the motion was carried.

Mike mentzle brought a reconciliation comparison as a suggestion that this might be a useful tool for tracking conference attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Regional Director Openings:

Region 5 – Mike presented letter of interest by Nick Meyerrose of South Vermillion Community School. *Mark Campbell made a motion to accept Nick Meyerrose as the Region 5 Director and Martha Allen seconded. The motion was carried.*

Region 3 – Lnn Hower said that Frank Jackson from Ft. Wayne community schools is interested but has yet to submit a letter of Interest. She will get with him

Poster Contest - Della Swain is recommending to change the award process. Currently we vote on one winner who gets a \$25 prize. Then submit that one poster to Nationals. She is recommending that we allow for a winner in each of the 5 categories and award the winner \$50. She would also like to see regional directors provide their

own contest then submit winners in each region to STAI. She further suggests a booth inside the trade show area for judging. Further discussion brought up place them at the entrance of the trade show. Joyce West suggested placing them by the registration area and hand ballots to each person as they register for the voting.

Monica Coburn moved to increase the award to \$50 in each of the 5 categories. Guy Gentry seconded and the motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monica Coburn congratulated Mark Campbell on getting the STAI Facebook page up and running.

REPORTS:

Indiana Department of Education Report -Mike LaRocco - Preservices will be posted this week. Postings will be of 2 quarters at a time.

2. NASDPPTS – has a bus seat flammability issue; the standards for testing present problems. These are for office furniture not for school buses and are based on data from a chemical company. This company is lobbying school districts to side with these stands. Tread carefully that you are not pulled into this struggle.

3. Dec 6th – state school bus committee will meet to discuss combining all spec types into one spec. this would mean special needs, type A-D etc. would become one and not have so much repetition. It would be easier to understand. This also would help to clear up where there were changes that were approved, yet never entered into the actual spec's – eliminating addendums and bring everything together as one. Will be asking us for input, what would we like to see the committee work on? Will go to OEMS, dealers and regions to talk with everyone. Mike states that it takes 10 months to get one item changed and anticipates this taking into 2013 before done. Would like to take the inspection manual so the specs are consistent with inspection manual. This will be the first major spec renovation since they were first developed in 1981. Airbrake and hydraulics were thrown out as an example, along with the guardian crossing light or one piece floor. With those thought, please think of your own ideas and let him know what changes you might want them to consider.

Indiana State Police Report – Steve Whitaker NP

Special Needs Committee- Julie Ely – Last Friday was a class with good turnout

School Bus Committee - Dwayne Vandiver – They will meet Tues the 6th.

Technicians Representative – Dwayne Vadiver -

1. Tour Cummins engine plant in Columbus. 2. Sargent Whitaker is working with them to update the inspection manual. They want feedback on what others think. Gary Lake sent his ideas to add incidental repair to the OOS, rejection. Garry marked the manual with several suggestions. Dwayne passed this around and will be scanning for all to look at.

As far as the discussion in the past about Steve Whitaker notifying the up line if a school district fails inspections Dwayne has suggested to add an 'Incident Repair' for those minor item that don't really warrant an OOS or a Reject. Mike Mentzel is willing to back Steve Whitaker on that thought process that upper management needs to know if there is a department with high failure rates. However, if Steve is not willing to allow for the 'Incidental Repair' he cannot back Steve. He agrees that is Steve is trying to point out that if a department has high failure rates, it is almost always a systematic issue and the transportation director is a part of the problem.

Lynn stated that she would like to see stats. Because they spend many OT hours getting ready. Mike states that the vast majority of schools do a good job but can understand Steve's thoughts that if there are any that are at 50% they should be reported.

Professional Development Committee - Patty Waites – will have report in Jan

Conference Committee – Joyce West NP – Lynn Hower presented:

Will have workshops on Friday morning to address all the different groups. Hotel is offering lower rate thru the weekend to accommodate those that want to stay later. The plan is to have the closing by 12-12:30. Post cards/brochures are for Regional Directors to pass-out at their regional meetings. Registration opens soon. Two questions at registration – 1 - What do you expect to see? 2 - What do you expect to get out of the conference? Speaker is Jessica Brookshire k.A.R.M.A. Bullying is her topic. Feeling good about conference. However, not a lot of conference members attending the planning meetings. 14 people are listed as committee members but only 5 showed up. Vendors are regular attendees and are very excited about this year's conference. As stated previously – Mike Mentzel asked to bring numbers of attendees comparing previous years by Region.

Vendor Representative - Denis Wiger discussed the trade show lay out. Vendor registration will be available at end of the week. Contest for vendors based on the theme of “be a transportation hero, do more with less”. Winner gets fee booth 20x15 at next year’s conference. Hearing a lot of buzz about the conference, a lot of schools who have not been before are talking about coming and bringing people with them. **One day session will be on Thursday – 189 for classes, for other groups.**

Indiana School Bus Drivers Association Representative - Penny Wright NP

Contractor Representative - Randy Armes - NP

Head Start Association Representative - Pam Brown – NP

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Director(s) at Large:

Martha Allen (Special-needs Safety Competition) Rodeo is being advertized in their meetings. Would like double attendance.

Mark Campbell - Facebook page link is on the STAI web site. There are about 5 administrators. Just hit like it. Lynn has contacted Benda Catania she will be sending the template for board business card.

Mike Clark (website) – None at this time

Monica Coburn (Safety-Competition/By-Laws) - Will be working on Bylaws change for presentation at next meeting.

Della Swain (poster contest)

Poster contest – theme is “Stand Back from the yellow and black”. Information needs to be posted on the STAI website

Regional Directors:

Region 1 - Pam Skoglund NP

Region 2 - Amy Rosa - Not met this year will have meeting after first of year.

Region 3 -

Region 4 - Bo Bowman NP

Region 5 -

Region 6 – Mark Clawson – Talking with others and getting set up with their information

Region 7 - Sallie Davis NP

Region 8 - Justin Wilczynski NP

Region 9 - Guy Gentry - Oct 19th. 7 school corporations were present at the last meeting. Conference and poster contest discussed. Mike Larocco will be attending the next meeting hoping for better turn out. Mike does want to help out by attending meeting just let him know. Mike also wants everyone to know that the DOE does stand behind the decision not to administer Diastat on a school bus route.

Region 10 - Tim Fosbrink – 10-14 attended last meeting. Discussion: Tech Tour, Poster Contest, DLGF, and Bus Safety Week. Tina Bower from Clarksville passed away unexpectedly and the group decided to take a collection at the next meeting for the family. Dec 14th will be next meeting.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Denis, suggested name badges should be re-done.

Be aware that Digital radio (narrow banding) goes into effect Jan 1, 2013. Make sure your radio license is consistent with the system you have.

NEXT MEETING DATE: DEC. 20, 2011

ADJOURNMENT: President Mike Mentzel declared the meeting closed.