

GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOLS
Board Meeting – Monday July 12, 2010
District Business Office

TO: Dr. Mike Riggle
Hillary Siena

FROM: Kimberly Ptak

DATE: July 12, 2010

RE: ACTION: APPROVAL OF (2) ACTIVITY BUSES for OFF CAMPUS USE

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve a three-year lease for (2) 14 passenger activity buses with Midwest Transit at an annual cost of \$7,317 per bus for use at the Off Campus facility. This cost will be fully covered by our annual special education transportation reimbursement and our IDEA special education entitlement grant. There will be no cost to the district. In order to qualify for this reimbursement/grant money, the buses must be used primarily (95%) for special education purposes. The IDEA grant is an entitlement grant meaning we do not need to annually apply for this grant.

Background

Off Campus has been renting a 72- passenger bus from First Student to make bi-weekly trips to the Northbrook YMCA and for periodic fieldtrips. After the special education transportation reimbursement the annual cost of the YMCA trips and periodic fieldtrips is \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively. This cost will be eliminated by having (2) dedicated activity buses. The attached memo summarizes the many ways in which the activity buses will enhance the off campus curriculum through site visits and fieldtrips which off-campus is currently unable to take.

Data on Activity Buses

As discussed at the last board meeting, the current fleet of activity-buses has some daytime availability to accommodate the needs of off-campus. The current average daytime usage of the buses is approximately 55% and the average evening usage is approximately 88%. The issue with off-campus sharing transportation with GBS and GBN is not usage but rather logistics and special education state reimbursement. The issue with logistics is physically getting the buses from GBS or GBN to off-campus. Teachers, paraprofessionals and custodians have other responsibilities during the day and would not have time to drive buses between campuses. A trip to pick-up a bus would easily take 20-30 minutes out of the day and another 20-30 minutes to return the bus. In addition, if coaches were asked to pick a bus up from off-campus prior to an athletic event and return it after the event, they might choose to rent a yellow activity bus instead. Secondly, if buses are shared, the district would not be eligible for special education state reimbursement.

A high-level review of data on the fleet of buses showed the following –

- ✓ There was only 1 week in September at GBS where 2 activity buses would have been available during school hours every day of the week – and a total of 52 days during the entire school year where 2 buses would have been available during school hours.
- ✓ There were 5 weeks at GBS and 3 weeks at GBN where no activity buses were available during school hours.

DATE: May 28, 2010
TO: Doug Strong
FROM: Bob Hopkins
SUBJ: GBOC Van Information

Based on questioning of the staff, GBOC vans could be used in the following ways:

1. Classroom Based Field Trips
 - a. Science – Take students to visit local educational sites like Volo Bog and Illinois Forest Preserves.
 - b. Consumer Education – Visit local businesses to put information learned in the classroom into perspective.
 - c. Social Studies – Visit sites that are significant to U.S.(Like Blue Star Woods on State St. – used as a German POW camp during WWII) as well as Chicago History.
 - d. English – Freedom to attend plays and performances based on curriculum.
 - e. Math – Attend math competitions at area schools.
2. Relationship Building
 - a. Join clubs at GBS and GBN
 - b. Introduction to local organizations
 - c. Fun activities
 - d. Service learning.
3. Social Club – Field trips for movies, NickelCity, Old Orchard.
4. P.E.
 - a. YMCA becomes a possibility again
 - b. Quick trips to GBS for PE are an option
 - c. Use of the Park Center may be possible
 - d. Trips to nearby parks for use of facilities.
5. STP Program – Teach independent skills
 - a. Laundry at the laundry mat
 - b. Shopping at the grocery store
 - c. Personal finance
 - d. Local organizations –Post Office, Library, food pantry
6. Mini-Trips
 - a. Oakton
 - b. Pivot
 - c. Peer Services
7. Transition “Launch Pad” Program
 - a. Students in this program will be working on community based goals needing experiential learning.
 - b. A van could be used daily in this program to help meet the program needs and decrease the costs of individual cab fares.

All staff agree that, considering the anxiety level of our students, having access to school transportation would increase attendance in school and improve involvement in school events.

GBOC Vans would support staff attempts to improve the attendance of certain students as well.