

**Attendance:**

David Freedman, Board of Education  
Kathy Hamilton, Board of Education

Ron Bienkowski, NPS Director of Business  
Tanya Gouveia, NPS Financial Analyst

- **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education CIP/Facility/Finance committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

- **APPROVE MINUTES**

Minutes of April 7 approved.

- **COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion and possible action:

- ***In-District and Out-of-District Special Education Transportation Contracts***

The following topics were discussed:

Fuel Usage – If the contractor uses the Town fuel to fill up their vehicles, they don't have to pay State and Federal taxes. The out of district contract pricing includes fuel costs. The in district contract does not include fuel costs and they will be using the Town fuel for their vehicles. The district is responsible up to a maximum of 2200 gallons/vehicle. Any overage is the contractor's responsibility.

Inclusion of Henry Abbot Tech/Nonnewaug/ECA/RCA in the In-District Contract – These schools are included in the in-district contract because they are regular education daily runs with fewer students. The contractor's vehicles are contracted for 6 ½ hours so that these vehicles can perform both regular education and special education runs without additional charges.

Excel Tutoring – Future consideration: Why not host the tutors in NPS as avoid transportation costs?

Why Mention RESC's in Bid Document? – Mr. Bienkowski wanted to specify explicitly because they are non-profits and sometimes have their own transportation vehicles (examples include CES, ACES (Hamden) & Education Connection). Education Connection had reached out to NPS a while back about using their bussing capabilities. Other options for transportation are transportation brokers who find 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to provide transportation.

Concerns – Concerns about the number of outbound tutoring and out-of-district placements that need to be transported. Concern that only one company bid the in-district contract and only two

companies bid the out-of-district contract.

Human Resources Responsibility – The contractor is responsible for their staff with respect to human resources issues. NPS has the ability to request/insist that a staff member be removed from servicing Newtown students.

Routing Responsibility – The contractor is responsible for routing. Consensus to ask AllStar for a report detailing number of buses, number of routes, number of students/route and length of all routes for their regular education transportation.

Education Connection – This contractor is in the process of interviewing drivers and aides from MTM. It is Mr. Bienkowski's impression that this contractor will allow drivers to park the vehicles at their homes in Newtown.

Conclusion - AllStar was the only bidder for the in-district special education contract. The out-of-district special education contract was bid only by AllStar and Education Connection. Education Connection met all of the bid requirements at a more effective price.

Future Transportation – In three years, the regular education transportation contract will expire. Mr. Bienkowski suggested that it may be beneficial to combine the in-district transportation and the regular education transportation under the same umbrella. The board may want to consider combining the contracts after the three-year mark. It was the consensus of both Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Freedman that this type of contract should be put to a public bid.

Next Meeting is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 am, Conference Room 3.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

- **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 9:15am.

Submitted: Kathy Hamilton, CIP/Facilities/Finance Committee Chair