

## **Questions that were asked by consultees during the Transportation Policy Consultation**

### **1) What is included in the Policy?**

There are five sections to the Policy. These define the general parameters for the delivery of transportation service.

The five include:

1. Preamble: defines the legal environment in which student transportation is organized;
2. Principles: confirm that the delivery of service is consistent with the Board's Mission Statement;
3. Objectives: describe the Board's transportation service priorities
4. Stakeholders' Roles and Responsibilities: define the roles and responsibilities of the Council of Commissioners, Transportation Services, School Administrators, Governing Board Carriers The Advisory Committee on Student Transportation and the Parents;
5. Organization Standards: define the standards regarding organization and management of school transportation

The Transportation Policy is approved by the Council of Commissioners following a consultation of its stakeholders.

### **2) What is the Student Transportation Organization Plan?**

The Student Transportation Organizational Plan is a document prepared by the Board's Transportation Services and identifies the availability of services offered to students.

The Student Transportation Organizational Plan contains:

- Optimal capacity of buses;
- Home to stop distances;
- School Hours / Busing Schedules;
- Transportation Entitlement;
- Transportation Zones;
- Transportation Services at a Fee

The Student Transportation Organizational Plan is determined on an annual basis, as it is dependent on funding regulations, which are usually provided by the Ministry of Education in March or April for the following school year. Once the financial parameters are known, Administration develops the Plan and it is reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation before its adoption by the Council of Commissioners.

Our timeline for creating and adopting the Plan and advising communities of any changes for the coming year must occur between April and May. This timeline is extremely short and realistically inhibits the possibility of a thorough consultation with our stakeholders

### **3) What is the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation?**

The Advisory Committee on Student Transportation composed of Commissioners, Administrators and Parent Representatives provide input into the planning, coordination, financing and administration of the Board's Student Transportation Organizational Plan. The Advisory Committee meets regularly and meetings are open to the public. Notification of meetings can be found in the Pearson News and the LBPSB WEB site.

#### **Legal references:**

##### Education Act:

(R.S.Q., c. I-13.3, r.7)

The Government may, by regulation, establish the composition (O.C. 647-91, s. 2.), mode of operation and functions of the advisory committee on student transportation. (1988, c. 84, s. 454.)

##### Regulation respecting Student Transportation

(updated to 5 August 2003)

##### Functions of the Advisory Committee on Student Transportation:

A committee shall give its opinion on each issue for which it must make a decision and on each issue submitted to it by the board.

An opinion must be given within 15 days of a request, unless the board grants the committee a longer period of time.

(O.C. 647-91, s. 7.)

A committee shall give its opinion on the planning, coordination, financing and administration of student transportation.

(O.C. 647-91, s. 9.)

A committee shall give its opinion on the student transportation organization plan of the board and on the terms and conditions for the granting of contracts for the transportation of students, before the board adopts that plan or sets the terms and conditions for granting those contracts.

(O.C. 647-91, s. 10.)

4) The following consultee recommendations are part of contractual arrangements that are presently in place and/or will be considered as points of discussion during future contract negotiations between the Board and carriers.

- Ensure that the drivers are trained in emergency health and safety procedures as outlined in the LBPSB First Aid Policy (i.e. CPR and Epipen administration).
- Drivers must be vigilant in reporting improper behavior to the school administrators.
- School buses of all sizes are turned off immediately upon arrival at a designated school.

5) Why, if a student has been granted courtesy bussing does the student have to re-apply each year?

Courtesy bussing is only made available if there is space. The amount of space can vary from year to year.

6) Why are yellow hazard lights used when buses approach pick-up locations?

As of August 2005, as it is done in many provinces across Canada, bus drivers are to activate their yellow warning light systems to indicate that their bus is about to stop to pick up or drop off students.

7) Why are seatbelts not installed on buses?

Buses are not designed like passenger vehicles. Following several tests under the supervision of Transport Canada, it was determined that seat belt usage resulted in injuries of greater severity.

For more information, visit the following sites on the Web:

[www.safety-council.org/info/traffic/schbusbelt.htm](http://www.safety-council.org/info/traffic/schbusbelt.htm) Canadian Safety Council

[www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/bus/schoolbus/BUSBELTS\\_e.HTM](http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/bus/schoolbus/BUSBELTS_e.HTM) Transport Canada

8) What is my child allowed to bring on the bus?

Only his/her school bag and a lunch box if it does not fit in their school bag.

Access to the bus will be refused to school projects, sakte boards, hockey sticks etc...