## ALLTOWN BUS COMPANY

Dr. Paul Fregeau, Oct. 30, 2020

**Decatur Public Schools** 

We at Alltown Bus understand and support your efforts to keep our school children, our community and our Alltown employee's safe during this pandemic caused by COVID-19. We want to assure Decatur Dist. 61 and all of the community that we are there to assist. Our employees are anxiously awaiting the end of this pandemic. We at ALLTOWN BUS are doing our best to keep our people safe and our buses clean and ready for use.

This Friday we learned that your district has postponed it's opening of regular in person learning until the first of the year (2021) and we are quite concerned about how this will impact not only Alltown Bus Company but all of our employees that have been waiting to get back to work. The lack of pay will affect our drivers, as you may know, the Economic Stimulus Relief Package is no longer helping them and unemployment benefits are now paying 47% - 55% of what they made last spring. This continued school closure now requires us to ask for help from your district to help us keep our Alltown staff paid because they too have families to feed, bills to pay and other necessary expenses. We would like to be able to pay our Alltown Bus staff and continue paying them until the schools reopen. We would also like to be ready when schools do reopen and with your help that would make it a lot easier to keep our staff intact.

In a letter dated August 4, 2020 "Transportation FAQ sheet (which I have sent a copy to Henry Walker) was updated to let the district know the State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala has directed local school districts to continue making payments to their contractors if they so desire, so all transportation personnel including school bus drivers and monitors can continue getting paid, despite schools closing statewide and most normal bus routes ceasing in response to the coronavirus.". They also stated that this would be reimbursable to the districts.

We are writing this letter to District 61 Superintendent and School Board Members to request that you start to compensate Alltown Bus at our current rate (for transportation), less certain un-incurred variable costs that will reduce some of our expenditures. This means payments of 90% of our regular rate because we would like to pay all of our office staff, drivers, monitors, mechanics and support staff, just like the district is paying all of your employees. We are still repairing and maintaining our fleet, offices and buildings, as well as paying our overhead costs such as bank notes, bus loans, insurance, rent and our parts/supplies vendors.

Alltown Bus has made a commitment to all of our employees and our districts that we will be ready to run when schools reopen. Alltown Bus is asking your district to make the same commitment you made last spring, to keep us whole so that we will be ready and available when this crisis is over and the children can go back to school. We look forward to hearing your comments on our request and your action on compensation to make it possible for us to keep our commitment (to be ready) for Decatur Dist. 61 including the parents and children of the community.

Sincerely,

Greg Polan, President Alltown Bus Company

Cc: Henry J. Walker Cc: Todd Covault