

From: Melissa Bradford
To: Henry Walker; Maurice Payne
Cc: Ashley Grayned; Deanne Hillman; Denise Swarthout; Jay Marino; Jeffery Dase; Judith Campbell; Maria Robertson; Paul Fregeau; Todd Covault; Luke Feeney; Christine Christensen; Brian Braun
Subject: FW: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:46:47 AM

Henry and Maurice,

Please see the below FOIA request.

- Henry please provide any documents regarding Alltown Transportation's staffing, employment and potential routes for the Spring 2021 semester.
- Maurice please search emails from Todd Covault and Paul Fregeau regarding Alltown Transportation's staffing, employment and potential routes for the Spring 2021 semester; the time frame for the emails from Todd Covault and Paul Fregeau is November 01, 2020 through January 12, 2021. Please let me know the number of hits.

As a reminder, we do not create documents to answer FOIA requests. If we do not have a response to particular request, please state, "no document responsive to this request." Please don't forget to let me know which request you were referring to.

If you have any additional questions, please give me a call.

From: Jennifer Lask [mailto:JLask@wcia.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>
Cc: Denise Swarthout <DSwarthout@dps61.org>; Luke Feeney <lfeeney@millertracy.com>
Subject: Re: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request

Hi Melissa,

I'm looking at a time frame of November 1, 2020 to January 12, 2021.

Thank you,

Jen

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:46:41 AM
To: Jennifer Lask <JLask@wcia.com>
Cc: Denise Swarthout <DSwarthout@dps61.org>; Luke Feeney <lfeeney@millertracy.com>
Subject: RE: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request

Good morning,

Per your FOIA request below, could you please provide a time frame as it relates to "emails regarding Alltown Transportation's staffing, employment and potential routes for the Spring 2021 semester?"

Please advise,

Melissa

From: Jennifer Lask [<mailto:JLask@wcia.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:35 PM

To: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>; Denise Swarthout <DSwarthout@dps61.org>

Subject: Re: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request

Please provide any documents and emails regarding Alltown Transportation's staffing, employment and potential routes for the Spring 2021 semester. These should include emails from Todd Covault and Dr. Paul Fregeau.

Please send electronic copies of these records and their attachments to jlask@wcia.com within five business days as required by law.

We request that the State of Illinois waive any fees for copying the documents as the principal purpose of the request is to access or disseminate information regarding the health, safety and welfare or legal rights of the general public. 5 ILCS 140/6(c))

Please note this request is not intended for Commercial purpose.

Sincerely,

Jen Lask

Jen Lask | WEEKEND ANCHOR / REPORTER

Office: 217.373.3650 | Cell: 847.682.9954

WCIA 3 | WCIX 49 | WCIA.COM

509 S. NEIL ST., CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

jlask@wcia.com



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From: [Todd Covault](#)
To: [Henry Walker](#)
Subject: RE: transportation
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:29:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

What are you current understandings?

From: Henry Walker
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:01 AM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: transportation

I did not receive a follow up as of yet.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S
Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 |Fax: 217-424-3006



From: Todd Covault
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:09 AM
To: Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: transportation

What was your "findings" from First Student?

From: Henry Walker
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: transportation

Alltown informed me that they will be short on drivers. Loss of drivers relating to the pandemic. I have contacted First Student and spoke with the local manager – he's going to have someone from the corporate office call me back today to see if they are able to assist, or not.

I will reach out to others as well.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



From: Todd Covault
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:26 AM
To: Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Subject: transportation

Is there something you need to tell me?

Contact other transportation service providers. Find out if they would have enough drivers and how quickly they could gear up.

From: [Todd Covault](#)
To: [Greg Polan](#); [Henry Walker](#)
Cc: [Tom Vorndran](#)
Subject: RE: Dist 61 emails
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:05:04 PM

Off the cuff, I would be willing to go 65% and 100%. However, I want to know more about your current staffing situation. We have not been in operation since the start of school year. Are your employees currently all or mostly on unemployment. And, with a decision to pick up some form of pay, were does that put us?

The district has a Metrix that indicates if 15% of drivers call off, we shut down. Based upon the information Henry provided with number of routes, need, and available, the Metrix did indicate no school.

I repeat, I have not discussed with the board. I have no current authority. But, I think we are close regarding what I (actually Henry) would be willing to recommend and defend.

From: Greg Polan [mailto:G.Polan@alltownbus.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>; Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Cc: Tom Vorndran <T.Vorndran@alltownbus.com>
Subject: RE: Dist 61 emails

I was just informed by my staff that Decatur has delayed the start of school until Feb. 8, because Alltown Bus was unable to perform, saw this in an email from Decatur sent by my staff. That is unfortunate because this isn't true, we told Henry and Randy that we could make it work and we stand by that.

Alltown understands that we are asking for help that you may not be able to give, to be clear, our Chicago agreement gives us 40% since the start of school in September through January 31, 2021, this did not involve paying the driver's, aids. We just started school for Chicago running approximately 65 routes four days a week. The CPS agreement is back paying us for our overhead costs from September 8, 2020 through Jan. 31, 2021. Your offer of 40% on the three days the district doesn't run each week doesn't cover our costs of drivers & aides pay (with taxes) insurance, bus notes, rent, etc.. We would accept 40% of our daily rate from the start of school August 14, 2020 until Jan 31, 2021, that would allow us to pay our drivers and aids for all five days each week going forward until school starts, when they are only driving two day, three or four days a week. Another option would be to pay us 75% on the days the drivers aren't driving starting January 4 until the drivers have a full schedule. And pay us 100% on the days that the drivers are working. Knowing now that we have lost another 14 days of transportation, we still would like to start paying the drivers that we do have now, have a route pick, conduct our safety classes and get them ready for February. We ask that you present these options to the board so that we can let our drivers know that relief is in sight.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Greg Polan

How many drivers has be expressed interests.

Henry

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>

Date: January 12, 2021 at 2:04:45 AM CST

To: Henry Walker <hjwalker@dps61.org>

Subject: Re: Information Needed

I am following up on this how many bus drivers did Alltown get commitments from is it still 75?

Dr. Paul Fregeau

On Jan 11, 2021, at 7:23 AM, Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org> wrote:

Dear Henry,

Good morning, I hope your day has started well. I am collecting information from DLT today that I need to know. From you I need the following:

1. Number of students riding the bus?
2. Have students been assigned seats?
3. How many bus routes we will be running?
4. Cleaning Process for the busses.
5. City busses available for High School Students.

I will need this information by the end of business.

Thank you in advance,

Dr. Paul Fregeau
Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools

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From: Todd Covault [<mailto:TCovault@dps61.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Greg Polan; Henry Walker
Cc: Paul Fregeau; Kimmy McKellar; Tom Vorndran
Subject: RE: Dist 61 emails

The District understands that CARES Act 2 extended unemployment.

The District is willing to negotiate a solution with the understanding that administration has no authority to offer. Anything would be pending board approval.

The District would be willing to recommend to the board 100% pay for routes on the days in session. We would be willing to recommend to the board 40% for the days in which we are not in session beginning in January 2021. As I understand, 40% is comparable to your agreement in Chicago.

Again, I am not in a position to sign an agreement, but, I need to know if you accept the terms assuming the board is willing to accept the terms so that Henry can make the recommendation to the Board.

From: Greg Polan [<mailto:G.Polan@alltownbus.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Cc: Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>; Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>; k.mckellar@alltownbus.com; Tom Vorndran <T.Vorndran@alltownbus.com>
Subject: FW: Dist 61 emails

Henry,

Thanks for calling me on the phone in regards to your last email that you sent. I have included as an attachment the three times I have asked for help in retaining our drivers including the last one where I sent you a list of districts that have been helping us retain our drivers since last fall. As per our conversation, yes we are short drivers but our staff will be able to transport the children on routes to and from school next week, and we are not defaulting on the contract. We have lost several drivers over the last four months because we were unable to pay them and we have told you this. We can cover what you and the district want us to cover with our staff's planning, in a safe and successful way. Please do not delay school again and stop the drivers from being employed, we know that we can safely transport the students to school and socially distance them at the same time. We know from our experience of transporting children in our districts up north that correct ridership information will enable us to transport all of the children we need to transport. We know that even when you do start routes at the beginning of the start-up that many children still don't ride. Please work with our staff and let us help the district get this transportation part started.

Thanks,
Greg

From: Greg Polan [<mailto:G.Polan@alltownbus.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Cc: Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>; Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>;
k.mckellar@alltownbus.com; Tom Vorndran <T.Vorndran@alltownbus.com>
Subject: FW: Dist 61 emails

Henry,

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Thanks,

Greg

From: Tom Vorndran
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Greg Polan
Subject: Dist 61 emails

Greg,

Here are the 3 emails I saw from 10/30, 11/24 and 1/6.

Each one describes your concerns about driver retention. Each can be considered notice of an expected shortage in my opinion.

Melissa Bradford

#1

From: Greg Polan <G.Polan@alltownbus.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Paul Fregeau
Cc: Todd Covault; Henry Walker; Tom Vorndran
Subject: School Bus Transportation
Attachments: 10302020162203897.pdf

Hope you have a safe weekend and we look forward to a quick response.
Thank You,
Greg Polan

ALLTOWN BUS COMPANY

#1

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.

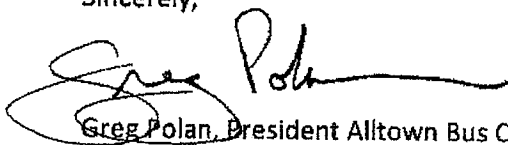
This Friday we learned that your district has postponed it's opening of regular in person learning until the first of the year (2021) and we are quite concerned about how this will impact not only Alltown Bus Company but all of our employees that have been waiting to get back to work. The lack of pay 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

Melissa Bradford

#2

From: Greg Polan <G.Polan@alltownbus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Paul Fregeau; Henry Walker; mbradford@dps.org
Cc: Todd Covault; Tom Vorndran
Subject: ALLTOWN BUS COMPANY.docx decatur 2020.docx
Attachments: ALLTOWN BUS COMPANY.docx decatur 2020.docx

Hello,

I am just wondering where we are with our proposal that I sent to you last month in regards to DPS 61 and Alltown Bus Company. We are still waiting for your response in regards to helping us stay open and getting our drivers paid so that we will be ready to go when you need us.

Our biggest worry is our drivers, many of their unemployment benefits will be running out in the next few weeks and we are unable to provide any support without your support. We have been able to work out Covid 19 subsidies with some of our other school districts or are currently working on the rest, we hope we can do the same with your district.

This is just a quick note to you that we are waiting on a response.

Thanks,

Greg Polan

ALLTOWN BUS COMPANY

#2

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.

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Sincerely,

Greg Polan, President Alltown Bus Company

Cc: Henry J. Walker

Cc: Todd Covault

#3

Melissa Bradford

From: Greg Polan <G.Polan@alltownbus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:42 PM
To: Paul Fregeau; Henry Walker
Cc: Tom Vorndran
Subject: Agreements for pay while not running

Dr. Fergau,

Henry Walker asked me to send you a list of people and districts that we currently have an agreement with to help us pay our drivers/ overhead (or both) during this Covid 19 Pandemic. As you know your district is starting school in a few weeks and we will be ready to provide the buses and drivers. You should know that we are concerned about our drivers coming back to work for only two days (pay) a week when they can make more from unemployment with the new stimulus package paying them \$300.00 per week plus there current unemployment benefits. I know that Henry has requested that we give you the agreements that we have in writing but I can only give you the names of the districts and the contact people to talk to. They will **confirm that we have agreements** in place to help us with our overhead/driver pay until school starts, agreements that pay us to pay our drivers on the days that they are not working and agreements in place to pay us 80% to 100% of our daily rate during E- learning. All of the districts listed below have been informed that your office will be calling them, and since we have different agreements (some written and some not) with each district we felt it would be best to let them tell you what we do have.

Glencoe District 35 - Jason Edelheit: Phone Number 847-815-2608

Skokie School District 73.5 - Anthony Ruelli: Phone Number 847-525-9388

Glenview School District 34 - Eric Miller: Phone Number 847-366-3711

*Harvey School District 152 - Rob Grossi (consultant); Phone Number 708-754-7157

Chicago Public School District - Kim Jones : Phone Number 773-251-5853

We have contacted all but one of the districts (Harevy) to let them know that your office would be calling. Just a quick note on the overhead costs that we shared with Henry yesterday; Bus Notes \$107,500.00 per month, Rent \$14,000.00 per month plus electric and heat. Bus liability Insurance \$23,000.00 Per month, Admin. and mechanics salaries \$34,000.00 per month. Please note that the agreements we currently have with the above districts constitute our company (Alltown Bus Service, Inc.) here in the Chicago Metro area. Our Decatur branch is a separate entity (Alltown Bus Company LLC) and it's a standalone enterprise that is supported only by Decatur District 61 and a few special ed buses from Anna Waters.

Please let me know if you need any other information.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Greg

From: [Paul D Fregeau](#)
To: [Todd Covault](#)
Subject: Re: School Bus Transportation
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:41:58 PM

Got it thanks.

Dr. Paul Fregeau
Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools

From: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 3:39 PM
To: Paul D Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: School Bus Transportation

Currently, the contract requires work to get paid. We don't have any amendment to make unless there is a desire to pay for no work.

From: Paul D Fregeau
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Subject: Re: School Bus Transportation

Is this something we review with the Board or do you and I make the call? Asking due to the fact the contract approval is ultimately done by the Board.

Dr. Paul Fregeau
Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools

From: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 3:31 PM
To: Paul D Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: School Bus Transportation

The "key" is the State is saying reimbursements, BUT, the General Assembly hasn't appropriated reimbursements yet for FY22. In concept, the General Assembly could appropriate 25 cents on the dollar.

At this point, with the Constitutional Amendment failing, there will be significant reductions. No additional State revenues means something has to give. There is risk that Alltown won't be ready when called on, but I don't favor paying folks if they are NOT working. DPS doesn't have the funds to continue this methodology.

From: Paul D Fregeau
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Subject: FW: School Bus Transportation

Have not had a chance to talk to you about this. Let me know your thoughts.

Dr. Paul Fregeau
Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools

From: Greg Polan <G.Polan@alltownbus.com>
Date: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 4:39 PM
To: Paul D Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
Cc: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>, Henry J Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>, Tom Vorndran <T.Vorndran@alltownbus.com>
Subject: School Bus Transportation

Hope you have a safe weekend and we look forward to a quick response.
Thank You,
Greg Polan

From: Tom Vorndran
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Greg Polan
Subject: Dist 61 emails

Greg,

Here are the 3 emails I saw from 10/30, 11/24 and 1/6.

Each one describes your concerns about driver retention. Each can be considered notice of an expected shortage in my opinion.

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From: Todd Covault
To: Henry Walker
Subject: RE: Student Transportation Agreement.
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:19:24 AM
Attachments: image001.png

I would not include the first two sentences, and edit thereafter.

From: Henry Walker
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Subject: Student Transportation Agreement.

How does this sound.....

Greg,

Kimmy informed me that Alltown will be short drivers due to the pandemic. This shortage will cause many routes to not be covered. We reduced our routes to about 86. Contractually we should have 95 drivers plus sub drivers. I was told so far Alltown is expecting around 73-75 drivers, and possibly fewer after official bid day tomorrow.

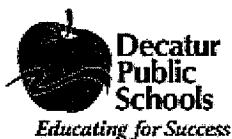
In the Agreement between the Decatur Public Schools and Alltown, it states "in the event Contractor cannot provide services for reasons stated herein, Contractor shall provide written notice to District by fax or email within 24 hours of the time Contractor is aware it services cannot be performed as required herein."

Based on the information we received, it appears you will default on your obligations for route coverage. This email serves as a written notice describing the nature of the default.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



From: Melissa Bradford
To: Henry Walker
Cc: Ashley Grayned; Deanne Hillman; Denise Swarthout; Jay Marino; Jeffery Dase; Judith Campbell; Maria Robertson; Melissa Bradford; Paul Fregeau; Todd Covault; Brian Braun; Luke Feeney; Christine Christensen
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information Request
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 8:23:40 AM

Good morning,

The District received the below FOIA request; the due date is Tuesday, January 19th, due to MLK holiday..

Henry, if there are no documents responsive to the requests, please state that via email. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Covault or Legal, depending on your question.

From: Tanner F [mailto:tanner@k12transportationresearch.com]
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request

Hi Melissa,

Thank you so much for sending over the information. I have an additional request based on the information provided - could you please also provide a copy of the current transportation contracts with Alltown Bus Company and Hope School (including any amendments) via email? Thank you again in advance.

Best regards,
Tanner

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 7:31 AM Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org> wrote:

Good morning,

Please see the following attachments in response to your below emailed FOIA request:

- DPS Response Letter
- FY19 Transportation Vendor Totals
- FY20 Transportation Vendor Totals

Could you please send me an email receipt? The purpose of the receipt is to verify that you have received this email and the attachments from Decatur Public Schools.

Thanks,

Melissa Bradford
FOIA Officer

-----Original Message-----

From: tanner@k12transportationresearch.com
[mailto:tanner@k12transportationresearch.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>; Melissa Bradford
<MBradford@dps61.org>
Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Hi,

I hope you are having a nice day. I would like to place a Freedom of Information Request for the following document:

1. Please confirm if the district owns its own yellow bus fleet and provides in-house transportation for general education and special needs students.
2. For FY 19 and FY 20 (through March 30, 2020), please provide student transportation fund expense ledger information summarized by vendor and by total annual spend with each vendor via email.

Thank you!

Tanner

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From: [Todd Covault](#)
To: [Henry Walker](#)
Cc: [Paul Fregeau](#)
Subject: RE: Student Transportation Request & Recommendation
Date: Friday, January 8, 2021 12:34:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Pull the bid specs from Randy's file from the last time. You update with anything you have learned over the last few years. For instance, you will likely want to add or update change of god language in the document.

Joanie can assist and Braun would be happy to review before it hits the streets.

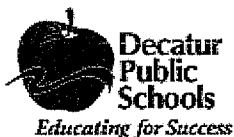
From: Henry Walker
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>
Cc: Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: Student Transportation Request & Recommendation

I agree this won't end well. I am just concerned about having enough drivers. I will proceed with the bid specs... I have not done this before, is this something Joanie can help me with?

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



From: Todd Covault
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Cc: Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: Student Transportation Request & Recommendation

I am not willing to stand in front of the board and recommend any fee for which the General Assembly has not appropriated reimbursement.

On days that we are in session, I am willing to pay 100% of the service. I am not clear why we would

only pay 74% for days we are running buses in hybrid and then pay 74% on days that we are not in service.

This is not going to end well. You need to start putting your bid specs together to determine the District's solution for FY22 and beyond.

From: Henry Walker

Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:24 PM

To: Todd Covault <TCovault@dps61.org>; Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>

Subject: Student Transportation Request & Recommendation

On Oct. 30, 2020, Alltown emailed a letter asking the District to compensate at their current rate (for transportation), less certain un-incurred variable costs to reduce some expenditures. Alltown requested payments of 90% of their regular rate to pay their office staff, drivers, monitors, mechanics, support staff, overhead costs such as bank notes, bus loans, insurance, rent, etc.

Besides a couple of special education routes this Fall, the District has not made any other payments to Alltown. I am concerned about the impact this will have on Alltown's ability to have employees available when we are ready to bring students back to school and their ability to increase their driver pool. I have reached out to several LUDA schools and all that I spoke with compensated their transportation personnel and Contractor provider during full remote learning and/or hybrid learning. My recommendation is that the District pay **74%** of the requested amount above during the full remote and/or hybrid school session for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year to help prevent the diminution of employee wages and/or benefits for any of the Contractor's employees employed to service the 2020-21 transportation agreement for the period of January 19, 2021 – June 30, 2021.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

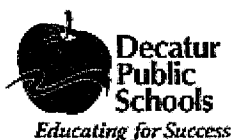
Director of Operations

Decatur Public Schools 61

101 W. Cerro Gordo

Decatur, IL 62523

Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



From: [Henry Walker](#)
To: [Paul Fregeau](#)
Subject: Re: See attached
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 8:25:16 PM

I'm available tonight if you want to call.

Henry

On Jan 7, 2021, at 8:17 PM, Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org> wrote:

Dear Henry,
I need to talk to you tonight or tomorrow about this document.

Thanks,

Dr. Paul Fregeau
Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools
<Bus Staging 2122.docx>

From: Greg Polan
To: Paul Fregeau; Henry Walker
Cc: Tom Vorndran
Subject: Agreements for pay while not running
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:44:22 PM

Dr. Fergau,

Henry Walker asked me to send you a list of people and districts that we currently have an agreement with to help us pay our drivers/ overhead (or both) during this Covid 19 Pandemic. As you know your district is starting school in a few weeks and we will be ready to provide the buses and drivers. You should know that we are concerned about our drivers coming back to work for only two days (pay) a week when they can make more from unemployment with the new stimulus package paying them \$300.00 per week plus their current unemployment benefits. I know that Henry has requested that we give you the agreements that we have in writing but I can only give you the names of the districts and the contact people to talk to. They will **confirm that we have agreements** in place to help us with our overhead/driver pay until school starts, agreements that pay us to pay our drivers on the days that they are not working and agreements in place to pay us 80% to 100% of our daily rate during E- learning. All of the districts listed below have been informed that your office will be calling them, and since we have different agreements (some written and some not) with each district we felt it would be best to let them tell you what we do have.

Glencoe District 35 - Jason Edelheit: Phone Number 847-815-2608

Skokie School District 73.5 – Anthony Ruelli: Phone Number 847-525-9388

Glenview School District 34 – Eric Miller: Phone Number 847-366-3711

*Harvey School District 152 – Rob Grossi (consultant); Phone Number 708-754-7157

Chicago Public School District – Kim Jones : Phone Number 773-251-5853

We have contacted all but one of the districts (Harvey) to let them know that your office would be calling. Just a quick note on the overhead costs that we shared with Henry yesterday; Bus Notes \$107,500.00 per month, Rent \$14,000.00 per month plus electric and heat. Bus liability Insurance \$23,000.00 Per month, Admin. and mechanics salaries \$34,000.00 per month. Please note that the agreements we currently have with the above districts constitute our company (Alltown Bus Service, Inc.) here in the Chicago Metro area. Our Decatur branch is a separate entity (Alltown Bus Company LLC) and it's a standalone enterprise that is supported only by Decatur District 61 and a few special ed buses from Anna Waters.

Please let me know if you need any other information.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Greg

From: Henry Walker
To: Todd Covault; Paul Fregeau
Subject: Student Transportation Request & Recommendation
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 2:23:48 PM
Attachments: image002.png

On Oct. 30, 2020, Alltown emailed a letter asking the District to compensate at their current rate (for transportation), less certain un-incurred variable costs to reduce some expenditures. Alltown requested payments of 90% of their regular rate to pay their office staff, drivers, monitors, mechanics, support staff, overhead costs such as bank notes, bus loans, insurance, rent, etc.

Besides a couple of special education routes this Fall, the District has not made any other payments to Alltown. I am concerned about the impact this will have on Alltown's ability to have employees available when we are ready to bring students back to school and their ability to increase their driver pool. I have reached out to several LUDA schools and all that I spoke with compensated their transportation personnel and Contractor provider during full remote learning and/or hybrid learning.

My recommendation is that the District pay **74%** of the requested amount above during the full remote and/or hybrid school session for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year to help prevent the diminution of employee wages and/or benefits for any of the Contractor's employees employed to service the 2020-21 transportation agreement for the period of January 19, 2021 – June 30, 2021.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



From: [Henry Walker](#)
To: [Colin Manahan](#)
Subject: RE: Transportation
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:51:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks for responding, I apologize for the typos in my initial email.

Henry

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



From: Colin Manahan [mailto:manahanc@district87.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org>
Subject: Re: Transportation

1. Yes - Illinois Central Bussing
2. Yes - we are doing partial bus runs.
3. We are paying 80% of the contract regardless of usage. As we bring more kids back and have more of a regular bus route day, we will pay more once we are over the 80% threshold.

Colin

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:13 AM Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org> wrote:

Dr. Manahan,

My name is Henry Walker and I oversee transportation for Decatur Public Schools #61. I am reaching out to large school districts locally to see what each LUNDA schools are handling transportation during Covid. If you don't mind, would you please send me back a quick response to the following questions:

1. Do you contract out your student transportation services?

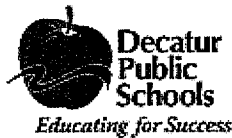
2. Are you continuing to pay for any transportation services throughout Covid (full remote learning and hybrid)? If so, please describe the services.
3. What rate, etc., you are paying when students are not being serviced, if any?

Thanks in advanced.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006



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Bloomington Public Schools School District 87
Bloomington, Illinois

From: [Vic Zimmerman](#)
To: [Henry Walker](#)
Cc: [Paul Fregeau](#)
Subject: Re: Student Transportation Bidding
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:53:41 PM

Thanks

Vic Zimmerman, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Monticello CUSD #25

On Dec 16, 2020, at 10:52 PM, Henry Walker <hjwalker@dps61.org> wrote:

Alltown Bus Company, LLC
Greg Polan - President
G.Polan@alltownbus.com
(847) 674-1114

Henry

On Dec 16, 2020, at 10:43 PM, Paul Fregeau
<PFregeau@dps61.org> wrote:

Could you send to Supt. Zimmerman?

Dr. Paul Fregeau

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Vic Zimmerman, Supt" <zimvi@sages.us>
Date: December 16, 2020 at 10:13:13 PM CST
To: Paul Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>, Susan Zola
<zolasu@u4sd.org>, Mark Doan
<doanm@effingham.k12.il.us>, "Carol B. Baker"
<cbaker@usd116.org>
Subject: Student Transportation Bidding
Reply-To: "Vic Zimmerman, Supt" <zimvi@sages.us>

Can you please send me the name and email address
of your contact for your current student transportation

provider (if you have one) so I can send them our bidding documents?

Thanks

Vic

Vic Zimmerman, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Monticello CUSD #25
2 Sage Drive
Monticello, IL 61856
217-762-8511 x1000

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From: [Paul Fregeau](#)
To: [Henry Walker](#)
Subject: Re: Have you heard from Alltown
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:42:46 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Sorry to bother you I just couldn't find this email

Thanks a bunch

Dr. Paul Fregeau

On Dec 16, 2020, at 12:29 PM, Henry Walker <HJWalker@dps61.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see below.

Best regards,

Henry J. Walker, Ed.S

Director of Operations
Decatur Public Schools 61
101 W. Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Ph: 217-362-3027 | Fax: 217-424-3006
<[image002.png](#)>

From: Henry J Walker
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Paul D Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
Subject: Re: Have you heard from Alltown

Good afternoon,

The manager estimated 84% of drivers to do in-person.

Henry

On Nov 5, 2020, at 1:37 PM, Paul D Fregeau <PFregeau@dps61.org>
wrote:

Dear Henry,
Have you heard from Alltown about the percentage of Drivers need to
have in-person learning.

Dr. Paul Fregeau
Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools

From: [Greg Polan](#)
To: [Henry J Walker](#)
Subject: Transportation-FAQ Oct 15 2020.pdf
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 1:51:35 PM
Attachments: [Transportation-FAQ Oct 15 2020.pdf](#)

FYI, we now know for sure that transportation costs are reimbursable just like last year.

Thanks for calling.

Greg