

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT  
MARIN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
. BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
375 DOHERTY DRIVE, LARKSPUR, CALIFORNIA

MINUTES  
September 10, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Frick - 8:35 (Reed), Barbara Johnson (Kentfield),  
Lori Parrish (Tamalpais), Michele Rollins - Via phone  
(Mill Valley), Chris Thomas - (San Rafael Elementary &  
High School Districts), Deborah Wolfe - 8:29 (Ross)  
and Dennis Petri (MPTA).

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Yancy Hawkins (Larkspur - Corte Madera), Midge Hoffman  
(\*\* Ross Valley) and Paula Rigney (Sausalito-Marin  
City)

*Special note \*\*: Jim Cerreta left his position at Ross  
Valley School District as of June 1, 2014. Midge  
Hoffman was hired to replace Jim. However, Midge's  
first day of work was the same day as this meeting.*

GUEST(S) :

Robert Betts (Marin Transit - Planning Manager)  
Barbara Duffy (Marin Transit - Director of Operations  
& Planning)  
Raquel Rose (Marin County Office of Education -  
Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Lori Parrish called the Board of Directors meeting to order  
at 8:16 a.m. in the Board Room at the Marin County Office of Education  
building in San Rafael.

ACTION SESSION:

1. **Approval of Agenda (8:16 a.m.):** -- Members approved the agenda as  
presented. (M/Chris Thomas, S/Barbara Johnson)  
**Vote by member:**  
Aye: Johnson, Parrish, Rollins, Thomas (2)\*  
\* Chris Thomas' vote counts as 2. She represents  
2 school districts.  
Nay: No members  
Abstention: No members  
Absent: Frick, Hawkins, Hoffman, Rigney, Wolfe

2. **Approve Minutes of the June 11, 2014 Meeting (8:16 a.m.): --**  
Barbara Johnson noted that there was a typo under the Time Certain agenda item (paragraph e). MCOE is mistyped. Dennis will correct the error as noted.

Members then approved the minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting as presented and to be corrected. (M/Chris Thomas, S/Barbara Johnson)

**Vote by member:**

Aye: Johnson, Parrish, Rollins, Thomas (2)\*  
\* Chris Thomas' vote counts as 2. She represents 2 school districts.

Nay: No members

Abstention: No members

Absent: Frick, Hawkins, Hoffman, Rigney, Wolfe

3. **Approve Rate Adjustment for First Student (8:18 a.m.): --** Dennis explained that when preparing the 2014 - 2015 Budget, he factored in a rate increase for First Student of 2.3%. This initial percentage was based on the CPI projected by School Services. However, the CPI actually came in at 3.0%. Therefore, the Board was asked to approve the corrected rate of 3.0% for the transportation contract with First Student for the 2014 - 2015 school year.

The Board approved the new transportation contract rate of increase to 3.0% as recommended. (M/Chris Thomas, S/Michele Rollins)

**Vote by member:**

Aye: Johnson, Parrish, Rollins, Thomas (2)\*  
\* Chris Thomas' vote counts as 2. She represents 2 school districts.

Nay: No members

Abstention: No members

Absent: Frick, Hawkins, Hoffman, Rigney, Wolfe

4. **Approve updated financial outlook for 2014 - 2015 (8:20 a.m.): --**  
Dennis noted that the financial updates are few in number. The 2014 - 2015 Budget will not be adjusted until First Interim Report; the Bill Back spreadsheet was only updated to include the rebates from 2013 - 2014, and a minor adjustment to the reserve amount.

Members did not have any questions on the updates. The Board approved the financial outlook updates as presented. (M/Barbara Johnson, S/Chris Thomas)

**Vote by member:**

Aye: Johnson, Parrish, Rollins, Thomas (2)\*  
\* Chris Thomas' vote counts as 2. She represents 2 school districts.

Nay: No members

Abstention: No members

Absent: Frick, Hawkins, Hoffman, Rigney, Wolfe



5. **Approve Certification for Financial Statements (8:23 a.m.):** --  
Lori reported that there were no problems or obstacles when completing the Unaudited Actuals. Members did not have any questions on these documents. Members unanimously approved the Certification for Financial Statements as presented.  
(M/Chris Thomas, S/Barbara Johnson)

**Vote by member:**

Aye: Johnson, Parrish, Rollins, Thomas (2)\*  
\* Chris Thomas' vote counts as 2. She represents 2 school districts.  
Nay: No members  
Abstention: No members  
Absent: Frick, Hawkins, Hoffman, Rigney, Wolfe

**TIME CERTAIN #1 - Scheduled for 8:30 to 8:40 a.m.**  
**Actual time (8:26 to 8:48 a.m.):**

Discussion with staff from Marin Transit for possible joint Request for Proposals (RFP) for Transportation Contract - Joining us today were Barbara Duffy, Director of Operations and Planning and Robert Betts, Planning Manager.

Robert started this discussion topic by providing a fact sheet on Marin Transit's Countywide School Transportation Study. He also gave a quick overview of the study and how it is proceeding. (See Minutes Attachments 1-A and 1-B)

Barbara noted that the majority of the service they provide now is for the Ross Valley School District (12 buses). One of the major current providers is Golden Gate Transit (GGT). However, GGT is no longer interested in continuing this relationship. The end of Marin Transit's contract with GGT is the impetus for an RFP, but the study is much more comprehensive and would happen either way.

The Board had a number of questions and/or comments, including: 1) Chris stated that San Rafael City Schools currently spends approximately \$800,000 per year on "big bus" funding with First Student; 2) What does Marin Transit project as to the number of buses initially needed for this contract? (10 - 13); 3) Michele indicated that Mill Valley School District may be interested in this service; and 4) Lori is uncomfortable with the MPTA partnering on this contract, but thinks Ross Valley School District is a good fit.

As this agenda item was already running over the allotted time slot, the Board thanked Barbara Duffy and Robert Betts for the information provided. The Board looks forward to hearing more as the study continues.

**Note:** Board member Michele Rollins (Mill Valley) joined the meeting in person while Time Certain #1 was in session (8:28 a.m.). However, Michele was taking part in the meeting via phone from Call to Order to present.

**Note:** Board member Deborah Wolfe (Ross) joined the meeting while Time Certain #1 was in session (8:29 a.m.)

Note: Board member John Frick (Reed) also joined the meeting while Time Certain #1 was in session (8:35 a.m.)

TIME CERTAIN #2 - Scheduled for 8:40 to 8:50 a.m.  
Actual time (8:48 to 8:55 a.m.):

**Time Certain - Transportation Issues & Discussion:** -- This time is set aside for discussion with representative(s) of the Marin County Office of Education. This month we invited Raquel Rose, Assistant Superintendent of Student Programs and Janelle Campbell, Director of Special Education.

Raquel was in attendance at this meeting as Janelle had a conflicting meeting that prevented her from attending.

Raquel reported on the following:

- a. One classroom formerly located at Vallecito School in San Rafael (Dixie School District site) has been moved to Lynwood School (in Novato). This move was necessary due to continued student growth in the Dixie School District.
- b. The classroom formerly housed on the San Ramon campus in Novato has been moved to Edna Maguire School in Mill Valley's School District. This decision was finalized just a couple of weeks prior to school start, but actually works well for students transported by the MPTA.
- c. Grant Grover School located on the College of Marin campus in Kentfield has adjusted their bell times per a request from the MPTA. Thank you very much!
- d. The Program Manager for Secondary and Post-Secondary Programs (Teri McLaughlin) will return to the classroom part time. Assisting in the Program Manager role on a temporary basis is Toni Lee.
- e. Raquel noted that any questions on students residing in group homes and their legal residence standing should be directed to Jon Lenz at SELPA.

This Time Certain agenda item ended at 8:55 a.m. The Board thanked Raquel for her attendance and input.

DISCUSSION SESSION:

1. **Acknowledge letter received from the Marin County Office of Education on Acceptance of the 2014 - 2015 Adopted Budget:** -- The Board accepted this information as presented.
2. **Discussion on the potential for a new funding structure for the Marin Pupil Transportation Agency starting in 2015 - 2016:** -- Since the meeting time was running late and most MPTA Board members were due at a different meeting, this agenda item was tabled.



3. Discussion on the recent court ruling for Adult Students and their District of residence. How this ruling affects the MPTA: -- Since the meeting time was running late and most MPTA Board members were due at a different meeting, this agenda item was tabled.
4. Fall 2014 Student Transportation Information: -- The Board accepted this information as presented.
5. Monthly Student Count Tally Sheet: -- The Board accepted this information as presented.
6. Students Listed by School Site: -- The Board accepted this information as presented.
7. Discuss other business: -- Dennis distributed two (2) newspaper clippings relating to the MPTA. Both items were printed in the Marin Independent Journal: 1) a letter to the editor dated August 30, 2014 (Minutes Attachment 2); and 2) a copy of Dick Spotswood's opinion piece from September 3, 2014 (Minutes Attachment 3).  
  
The Board accepted this information as presented.
8. Set next meeting: -- The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for October 8, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:05 a.m.