

Logan Elm Local Schools Bus Purchase Recommendation May 27, 2008

Under the direction of Chuck Arledge, we have maintained an efficient, dependable bus fleet. As calculated by the Ohio Department of Education, our 2006-07 cost per mile was \$2.04 compared to the statewide average of \$3.73 per mile. Based on the density of our riders (8.07:1 square mile), the Ohio Department of Education set our target ridership at 46.29 students per bus. Our actual ridership is 63.92 students per bus. In addition, our maintenance staff has been able to ready our fleet for summer inspection year after year with only minor findings that have been addressed same day.

However, the age and wear of our fleet has begun hampering its efficiency and dependability. Our average bus is 10 years of age with 182,982 miles. A recent Columbus Dispatch article on the “sad state” of school bus fleets across the state revealed there are 109 school buses in Ohio that are 21 years old or older. Logan Elm owns 8 of those! Here is a summary of our fleet:

# of Buses	# of Miles	# of Buses	Age
7	0 – 50,000	11	0-5 years
4	50,001 – 100,000	7	6-10 years
6	100,001 – 150,000	8	11-15 years
2	150,001 – 200,000	1	16-20 years
6	200,001 – 250,000	8	21+ years
2	250,001 – 300,000		
5	300,001 – 350,000		
3	350,000+		
Average	182,982	Average	10.8 years

Older buses are less dependable, get poor gas mileage and are increasingly expensive to maintain. Based on the above chart, we have fallen behind in our fleet replenishment efforts and need to take steps, while we are financially able, to get caught up.

Finance Committee has been studying this issue this spring and has finalized a recommendation to the Board of Education to purchase six new buses. Bids were opened May 7th and the results were:

Vendor	Per Our Specifications	Acceptable Stock Units
Center City International	\$73,265	\$72,120
Edwin Davis & Sons	\$74,550	\$73,075
Ohio Bus Sales	\$74,985	N/A
Cardinal Bus Sales	\$75,739	\$74,027

As you can see, Center City International was the low bidder. Finance Committee does recommend purchasing their stock units, which can be delivered, inspected and ready for the start of the 2008-09 school year. Only minor modifications would need to be made to bring them up to our specifications.

These new buses will have improved emissions and get approximately 9 miles per gallon of fuel compared to the 4.5 miles per gallon the buses they will replace currently get. These environmentally friendly measures also result in an annual fuel savings of approximately \$41,640. Their maintenance costs will also be substantially lower. Combining fuel and maintenance savings, we have projected the operating savings to be \$433,298 over the next seven years, at which point we will have realized payback for the initial investment. We will realize over \$18,000 in savings before the new buses even arrive by not having to prepare the six old buses for inspection. Our average bus age will be reduced from 10.8 year to 7.1 years and Chuck will be much more capable of maintaining our efficient, dependable bus fleet.