

**SHELTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**

Chairman Arlene Liscinsky called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

In Attendance: Committee Members: Arlene Liscinsky, Tom Minotti, Win Oppel, and Mark Holden, Chairman BOE

Absent: Jim Orazietti, Michael Pacowta, and Jay Francino-Quinn

Also in Attendance: Allan Cameron, Director of Finance; Freeman Burr, Superintendent of Schools; Board Member Timothy Walsh; Debbie Keller, SEA President; and members of the public.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear the Superintendent's report on proposals of potential student transportation providers and for the Finance Committee to recommend a student transportation provider for the consideration of the full Board of Education.

Superintendent Freeman Burr addressed the Committee. He indicated that the City purchased a fleet of 60 busses. Seven potential companies bid for third party services providing operators. The primary goals were for a 3 or 5 year contract for safe, reliable student transportation. Mr. Burr reminded the Committee of last January's contentious relationship with the present provider who did address the BOE's concerns. He said there were 13 areas of concern in the new contract that included cost and ability of the company to provide licensed, experienced bus drivers. Safety and training were of primary importance. It was important that the new provider reach out to the existing staff. It was possible that the cheapest proposal may not be the best. It was important to meet the 13 indicators.

Allan Cameron addressed the Committee reviewing some the requirements of a potential provider. The experience with First Student was difficult in that there were no drivers from Shelton resulting in inexperienced drivers. The wage rates were not competitive. It is important to retain people with local knowledge. Summer school starts July 8th and the busses need to be up and running very soon. It is best to work with people who know how to get this done.

Seven companies responded. The field was narrowed down to three. The three made good proposals. All started +with safety trends and training for drivers. All could do the work in one way or another. It was important to choose the lowest responsible bidder.

The three most favorable companies were People to Places, First Student and Landmark. One of them had an inconsistent pattern of favorable endorsements that narrowed the field to two companies that could definitely provide the services.

The recommendation was for Landmark Transportation.

ACTION: Win Oppel moved to have the Finance Committee recommend to the full Board to permit the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Landmark.
Tom Minotti seconded the motion.

Discussion: The proposal was for 5 years for 60 busses. There would be no changes in the current operation. The current employees would be retained. Mr. Cameron indicated that Landmark is a Canadian company with impeccable references. They are prepared to operate July 1st. They will have a transition team in place as soon as they are voted in. They have already reached out to several vendors in case the busses are not delivered on time. They are proponents of good customer service and treating their employees like a family.

The administration feels the busses will be ready on time. The first busses should be arriving in early June.

Mr. Holden felt that although Landmark is not the lowest bidder it is superior and definitely a class act. They are the lowest responsible bidder.

A vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith B. Hack
Recording Secretary