

Minutes of the Bethel Board of Education **Transportation Hearing** held in Conference Room E on **Thursday, December 4, 2008.**

Board of Education Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, K. Harrison, W. Kingston, B. Foulk, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: M. Knickerbocker

Attendance: T. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, D. Hart, Laidlaw Bus Company,

Residents of Midway Drive: K. Battocchio, B. LiVolsi-Conlin, K. Fortier, T. Conlin, C. Caprio, P. Davies-Buress

1. **Transportation Hearing**  
a. **CT General Statutes Section 10-186**  
**Midway Drive**  
**Johnson School/Middle School Bus stop**

Mr. Kingston, Chairman of the Bethel Board of Education, called the Transportation Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes 10-186. Mr. Kingston informed the Board and those in attendance of the procedures to be followed and swore in those persons who would be giving testimony. An audio tape of the hearing was made.

**Complainants**

Kim Battocchio, 76 Midway Drive  
Barbara LiVolsi-Conlin, 70 Midway Drive  
Katie Fortier, 33 Midway Drive  
Tom Conlin, 70 Midway Drive  
Celeste Caprio, Midway Drive  
Pamela Davies-Buress, Midway Drive

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- The hearing has been requested to appeal the decision of the Transportation subcommittee to deny request to change the bus stop.
- No sidewalks on Midway Drive. When children go to the bus stop at the corner of Route 302 and Midway, they have to walk on the road and go around cars that are parked on the street. This puts children at risk of being hit by a car coming up or down the road.
- Having to walk on the street is also a hazard with inclement weather.
- Number of children – 15-20 – waiting at the bus stop is unsafe situation. With the heavy traffic and the speed of traffic on Route 302 the children are at risk of being hurt if they stray too close to the main road.
- Mrs. Fortier's child, who is in accelerated math program at Rockwell School, might be going to Johnson School as a 7 year old. This is an unsafe situation for a child that young.

- Major concern about drop off in the afternoon as children have to cross Route 302. Speeding traffic, people do not always stop for school buses even when the bus has red lights flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- Berry/Rockwell School buses come up midway to pick up children.
- Submitted petition signed by 38 residents of Midway Drive in favor of moving bus stop onto Midway Drive.

### **Respondents**

T. Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, Bethel Board of Education

D. Hart, Laidlaw Transportation

- Consulted with Bethel Police Department
- Viewed the current bus stop
- No matter where the bus stop would be on Midway Drive, the children would still have to walk on the road to get to the stop.
- Bus stops are set up in accordance with age
- Bus stop is safe as children do wait inside Midway Drive
- Heavy traffic can cause a problem for the bus driver trying to come out of Midway Drive onto Route 302.
- The afternoon drop-off can be a concern with children having to cross Route 302.

Police Department – Considered the current stop safe. T. Yonsky submitted their considerations to Board and complainants.

- Additional time on route going on Midway Drive
- Safety considerations in maneuvering a large bus in this residential area with narrow roadway and on street parking with kids playing and back out driveways vs. Route 302 traffic.
- Noise from youths waiting near Route 302 is lessened by traffic. A stop in the quiet neighborhood will disturb residents.
- Route 302 is better during winter weather.
- There are off road sidewalks to wait.
- There is a State crosswalk at the intersection, and adequate Pedestrian warning signs.
- The location is already a designated H.A.R.T. Transit handicapped posted bus stop.
- There is parking for parents on Midway drive.
- There is no unfamiliar thru traffic on Midway Drive, a residential circle and short dead end road.
- Safe past history.
- Safety can be enhanced by not having students crossing Route 302.
- Packet also included Criminal Considerations, Collision History, Collision Conclusions, and site-line photos.

W. Kingston declared the Transportation Hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Spillane  
Board Recorder