

Key Facts about the Washtenaw Transportation Consolidation Design

February 2, 2010

- ◆ Many fiscal and political pressures are challenging our schools today, including:
 - maintaining quality educational programs in the midst of shrinking resources,
 - making budget reductions due to lower state funding levels and declining enrollment, and
 - addressing legislation on consolidating services.
- ◆ Over the last several years, we have cut budgets and consolidated services while striving to maintain the quality of educational programming.
- ◆ Since February 2007, we have been participating in a countywide committee with representatives from all 10 local school districts and Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) to examine and implement areas in which our schools can economize by sharing or consolidating services. As a result, our school districts are collaborating in more than 87 different areas. That collaboration work continues.
- ◆ We are now developing a model, in cooperation with WISD, which will allow school leaders to determine if consolidating transportation services will meet the needs of our students and district.
- ◆ This model is being developed as a potential alternative to privatization of school transportation services. It will consider all potential savings that can be realized from one, countywide network. It will examine all efficiencies—not just personnel costs.
- ◆ The goal is to maintain the quality and safety of transportation services while creating a more efficient, consolidated operation that will generate cost savings in the 18%-25% range through:
 - standardization of buses, fuel systems, processes and supplies
 - centralization of facilities, administration and overhead
 - optimization of routing, staging, inventory strategies and industry best practices, and
 - budgetary control of compensation and benefits.
- ◆ The design work will be carried out by facilitated teams of individuals from the school districts in Washtenaw County. It will be coordinated by consultants from Xavier Leadership Center of Xavier University in Ohio and Transportation Strategies of Indiana.
- ◆ The purpose of this work is to design a countywide transportation network. It is not an academic study but a real, workable model to be implemented upon approval of our local school boards.
- ◆ The Washtenaw Transportation Consolidation Design will be completed before the end of this school year. Once complete, the model will be forwarded to each of the ten local boards of education for a decision about each district's participation.