

# *City of Brisbane*

## *Agenda Report*

To: City Council via City Manager

From: Stuart Schillinger, Administrative Services Director

Subject: Update from Jefferson Union High School District on School Bus for 2017/18 and 2018/19

Date: November 16, 2017

### **Purpose:**

Provide an update to City Council regarding the status of High School Transportation from Brisbane.

### **Recommendation:**

Receive the update and provide staff direction.

### **Background:**

In 2010, due to financial considerations caused by elimination of state funding for transportation, the Jefferson Union High School District decided not to provide bus service to and from Brisbane to Terra Nova and Oceana High Schools. Prior to that time the City paid the school \$30,000 a year to support the regular bus service and \$23,500 to fully fund the late bus. In 2010 the School District said the full cost of both services were approximately \$110,000 and given other reductions in revenues the District could no longer afford the additional \$57,000 a year in costs.

Staff contracted with CYO to provide bus service at a cost of \$81,000 a year starting in the school year of 2010/11. This service has been in effect with annual increases in cost through the school year of 2015/16. The current cost of the service is approximately \$98,000 a year a portion of which (about \$12,000) is recovered in fees.

At the end of the 15/16 school year CYO contacted staff and said they would no longer be providing bus service to and from Brisbane to Terra Nova and Oceana High Schools. The reasons for this were discipline and behavioral issues on the bus which the drivers felt created unsafe conditions. MetroTrans agreed to work with us given they have a bus yard near Brisbane, and felt that supporting the surrounding community would be opportune. The contract with them was for \$100,000 in 2016/17. However, based on behavioral problems on the bus and the fact that MetroTrans had difficulties finding drivers for the route which caused students to be stranded the agreement was not renewed for 2017/18.

At the January 5, 2017 Council meeting the Council requested the City's 2x2 committee meet with the members of the Jefferson Union High School District Board and the Superintendent to discuss possible solutions to providing transportation from Brisbane to Terra Nova and Oceana High Schools and back. The City Council expressed their desire to end paying for the bus service in the near future. Instead the Council wanted to use the funds for its original purpose, funding academic opportunities in the High Schools.

On March 2, 2017 staff reported to the Council that the result of the meeting between the City Council and JUHSD 2x2 meeting on February 15, 2017.

On April 27, 2017 staff reported the results of discussions between City staff and School District staff. The School District found a potential provider of the service, Michael's. The School District contracted with Michael's for the service and the City reimburses the School District the cost of the service less any revenue they received from the students.

The Superintendent met with Clay and me on Tuesday November 7, 2017 to discuss the school bus situation. Michael's has also been an unreliable provider of the service. One of their drivers was replaced due to unsafe driving on the route. Another time a driver failed to show up in the morning to drive the route so the School District needed to use one of its drivers for the route. Their buses and drivers are there to transport students who have a specific IEP ((individualized education program) which requires the school district to provide transportation. IEP are only available for children who are eligible for special education.

The Superintendent stated that the review of the school bus situation will be on their School Board Meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that based on this conversation the Board will take action on December 19<sup>th</sup> to not provide bus service next school year beginning in August of 2018.

**Discussion:**

As reported previously staff has exhausted the list of potential school bus companies that could drive the route. Michael's was in fact a company that had showed interest two years ago but did not respond to us in a timely manner. This was the reason we chose to use MetroTrans last school year. Staff does not think it will be able to find any other appropriate school bus service for next year.

There is public transportation available to go to both Westmoor and Jefferson High Schools from Brisbane. Staff has suggested to the Superintendent that a meeting with parents in Brisbane highlighting the changes made to Jefferson High School and its academic programs might be beneficial.

**Fiscal Impact:**

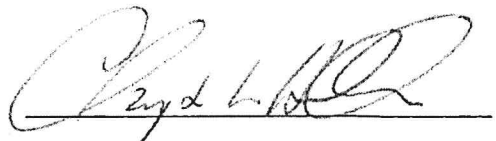
The fiscal impact to the City of Brisbane will depend on the direction from City Council.

**Measure of Success**

The students in Brisbane have a safe transportation method to get to and from High School.



Stuart Schillinger  
Administrative Services Director



Clay Holstine  
City Manager