

## **Ward 10 Bussing Meeting Notes**

### **Essex Hawthorne PS, November 22, 2007, 6-7PM**

#### **Transportation Issues Raised:**

- **Young students (K-Grade to 2) left unattended after drop off**
- **It takes many weeks at the beginning of the year to stabilize the routes and transportation times**
- **Morning drop off times are often unreasonable for young children arriving as early as 8:30 AM for a school start time of 9:00AM**
- **Changes in pick up and drop off locations with no consultation with affected parents**
- **Parents in the schools that have bussing need to be aware of and respect parking rules in the school neighborhood. Improper parking affects the transportation schedule and can create a safety hazard for discharging children.**
- **Is it possible to conduct a survey of parents whose children are being bussed by TDSB with input from parents into the survey design?**
- **Bussing routes are much too long in many cases (1 hour or longer in some cases when driving time is 10-15 minutes)**
- **Bus companies have the authority to change routes without consultation**
- **The change in the TDSB bussing service provider has created a significant disruption in the service and the routes**
- **If busses are not available taxis are used. This puts children at undue risk as the taxi drivers are not subjected to the same checks as the bus drivers.**

#### **Possible Options for Improving Transportation to TDSB schools**

- **There should be an advisory committee to help TDSB transportation staff understand the issues and plan for improvements. Propose an**

**advisory group meets 3 - times per year with transportation staff and service providers.**

- **Improved communication to parents through mailings, phone calls, web postings or e-mail**
  - **Prior to start of term**
  - **Immediately on the requirement to make a change to bussing routes or pick-up locations**
- **Improved negotiations with the bussing service provider regarding contractual commitments**
- **Do not permit the use of taxi's to augment bussing transportation or make it mandatory to have a school staff member accompany the children in the taxi.**
- **Incorporate maximum bussing times in the bussing contracts to encourage the service provider to optimize routes.**

**Actions- Proposed follow-up meeting with Robin Wilson, TDSB Transportation to discuss proposed options.**

**Notes prepared by Jim Prince, Ward 10 Schools Council**