

January 23, 2023

To: Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent
From: Jason Mutzenberger, Executive Director of Business Services
Re: School Bus Purchases

The district is requesting permission to purchase buses in advance of the adoption of the fiscal year 2024 capital budget in order to have buses arrive as close to start of the school year as possible. It is best practice to start the school year with our bus fleet intact for the following reasons:

1. Students will have a consistent bus number the entire year.
2. Bus drivers will practice routes and train on a consistent vehicle.
3. Mechanic time is not wasted prepping older buses that will be replaced in a few months.

Current Fleet Statistics:

1. 103 buses and 5 vans in the fleet (Need 7 new buses on average annually to stay on a 15-year replacement cycle).
2. With this purchase, 4 regular education buses will be replaced due to high mileage and increasing maintenance costs.
3. With this purchase, 2 special education buses will be replaced due to high mileage and increasing maintenance costs.
4. One regular education bus will be repurposed utilizing ESSER funds for a mobile classroom.

Bus purchases will be made from the state contract, so bidding is not required. The estimated cost of the new buses is \$822,000. Funding for all 6 of the buses will be provided through the FY23-24 annual operating capital budget.