

Weston Board of Education Special Meeting
Monday, June 3, 2024 6:00 PM
Remote Session

- I. Call to Order, Verification of Quorum
- II. Discussion and approval on In-District Transportation Recommendation
- III. Adjournment

WESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Weston, CT

Meeting Date: 6/3/24

Information Only

Action Requested

Agenda Item Subject: In District Transportation Recommendation and Approval

Submitted by: Phillip Cross

Document Summary/Purpose and/or Recommended Action:

Following are the results of the recent RFP for in district transportation. We recommend awarding the contract to First Student.

For more Board of Education Meeting and Committee Meeting Information, visit:
<https://meeting.cabe.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=47&AgencyTypeID=1>



June 3, 2024

TO: Weston Board of Education

FROM: Phillip Cross, Director of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: In-District Transportation Award Recommendation

First Student and Dattco responded to our RFP for In-District Transportation. On May 23, 2024 Steve Ezzes, Michael Guido, Lisa Barbiero, Mark Berkowitz and myself met with both transportation providers to review the details of their proposal. In addition, we requested that they provide us with their best and final offers.

The general consensus is that First Student is better suited to satisfy the needs of the district in the near and long term.

In a few short years, the District will need to satisfy the requirements of the State's Clean Air Act (Public Act No. 22-25). This act requires that all school buses shall be zero-emission beginning in 2035. To satisfy this requirement we need a partner with expertise in this field. In our opinion, First Student is such a partner.

They are committed to electrification. They have a twenty-person team of engineers, infrastructure experts and grant writers dedicated to EVs. Currently, they have deployed 352 EVs in the USA and Canada and have developed an innovative charging infrastructure.

In the near term, remaining with First Student will significantly reduce service disruptions. We are currently fully staffed with dedicated Weston drivers who are very familiar with our community and families. Additionally, staff morale is high, which is due in large part to the location Manager and Dispatcher.

Should we decide to change providers there is no guarantee that this team of drivers, Manager and Dispatcher will remain.

Financially, the cost of the two providers are almost identical. Below is comparison of the annual and total cost:

IN- DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION RFP RESPONSE COMPARISON

<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Total Contract Price</i>	<i>Year 1 (24-25)</i>	<i>Year 2 (25-26)</i>	<i>Year 3 (26-27)</i>	<i>Year 4 (27-28)</i>	<i>Year 5 (28-29)</i>
First Student	10,611,868	1,953,726	2,031,354	2,117,654	2,207,654	2,301,480
Dattco	10,520,644	1,942,849	2,019,929	2,100,803	2,184,835	2,272,228
First Student V. Dattco	\$ 91,224	\$ 10,877	\$ 11,425	\$ 16,851	\$ 22,819	\$ 29,251
FY25 Budget		2,111,021				
Budget V. First Student		157,295				
Budget V. Dattco		168,172				