

**Transportation Questions Addressed – Art Krulitz**

Q. Patrons are asking why buses are being used for personal use and why are there empty buses on the road during school hours?

A. The reason patrons see buses traveling during midday hours is because the district is busing morning and afternoon pre-school to Silverton where we co-op with Wallace in their school setting. Please note that the preschool in Silverton is an early childhood program mandated by the state and federal government to serve 3-5 year olds with special needs. It serves children in Wallace, Mullan and Kellogg districts.

In addition to pre-school, the district shuttles Gifted and Talented students from Sunnyside and Canyon in to Pinehurst and back to their home school.

The district also services special needs students during the day and their schedules can differ somewhat from the mainstream student. Some of the special needs students also require an assistant with them both in school and on the bus.

No drivers are using buses for personal use. Some drivers are allowed to park their bus at home and go from there on their shuttles and mid-day runs simply because it saves the district money if they do not have to come back to the garage.

Q. What about combining routes?

A. We monitor our routes on a yearly basis and whenever it is possible, we do shorten or combine routes as long as it does not affect our services to those areas. The district over the last four years has reduced its yearly average of miles run by 70,000. We will continue to work at cutting costs wherever we can.

Q. If an employee has other health insurance, does that employee get the cost of the district insurance reimbursed back to them on their paycheck?

A. The answer is no. However, if a school employee elects not to take the school insurance because they are covered through a spouse's insurance, they will receive a \$150 monthly stipend. Before receiving the stipend, the employee must first prove they have coverage elsewhere. This actually saves the district approximately \$600.00 per month.

Q. Are there any bus drivers making \$2,000 per month?

A. There are not any drivers averaging \$2,000 per month. Drivers pay fluctuates from month to month due to the amount of route hours driven, hours shuttling, as well as the number of activity trips one takes.

**Supplemental Levy Information**

We are updating financial information as we have patron questions on our Financial Advisory Committee Webpage at <http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm.htm> . The district will run a two-year supplemental levy in the amount of \$3,260,000.00 for 2010-2011 school year and \$3,260,000 for 2011-2012 school year. The homeowners' impact in the supplemental levy category for a home with a taxable value of \$175,000 would be an increase of \$129.74 per year or \$10.81 increase per month.

At this levy amount, the district should be able to maintain low class sizes, keep currently funded

sports and activities, meet legally required costs for staff, and cover projected insurance and PERSI cost increases.

It is important to understand that if enrollment and attendance were to decline further in the next two years, the district would not necessarily maintain the same number of staff members since not as much support would be needed and state funding would be reduced as well. Due to the 8.5% reduction in overall funding expected by the state for next year, combined with further reduction in supplies, textbooks, technology and remediation funding, we will need to reduce in these areas even with levy support.

Note that this levy amount will not add any activities that are not currently funded such as field trips and C basketball (which operates from fundraising efforts). Additionally, there is no guarantee on activities, staff or programs that are funded by grants since these funds are usually declining over the grant period and have an end date.

The polls will be open from 12:00 Noon until 7:00 p.m. on March 23. Non-registered voters may register at the polling site. The polling sites will be Canyon, Pinehurst, and Sunnyside Elementary Schools and Smeltonville City Hall. Forms for absentee ballots are now available at the school district office at 800 Bunker Avenue, 784-1348.

### **Other Financial Questions?**

They may already be answered on our Financial Advisory Webpage at <http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm.htm> Feel free to send any other questions to us at Kellogg School District, 800 Bunker Avenue, Kellogg, ID 83837.