



**MINUTES**  
**Indiana State School Bus Committee**  
**June 1, 2021**

The Indiana State School Bus Committee met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 held online through MS Teams with the following members in attendance:

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ron Chew – Ind. Assoc. of School Bus Drivers  
Dr. James Hanna – Pub. Sch. Superintendent  
Dwayne Vandiver – Sch. Trans. Assoc. of Ind.  
Randall Boone – Ind. Dept. of Revenue  
Dr. Joseph O’Neil – Governor’s Council on  
Impaired & Dangerous Drivers  
Terry Butler – Ind. School Boards Assoc  
Melissa Lechner – BMV

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michael Mentzel – Chairman  
Todd Malone – Indiana School for the Deaf &  
Indiana School for the Blind

**COMMITTEE SECRETARY PRESENT:**

Lisa Callihan – Office of School Transportation

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sgt. Chris Kath – ISP  
Kelly Moore – Ind. Assoc. of Sch. Bus  
Dist.  
Julia Goon – Ind. Twnshp. Assoc.  
Todd Edwards – Ind. Trans. Assoc.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Loren Evans – IASBO

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION PRESENT:**

Mike LaRocco – Office of School  
Transportation

The meeting was presided by Mike LaRocco. The committee meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum of voting members was present for voting purposes.

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Guests that were present: Ryan Campbell-MacAllister  
Kevin Feldman-Midwest Transit  
Dan Fillenwarth-Luminaire  
Jack Fillenwarth-Luminaire  
Andrew Desmarais-Luminaire  
Roger Harvey  
Frank Jackson-Ft. Wayne Community Schools  
Devon Davis-Bose Public Affairs Group  
Michael Brady-Bose Public Affairs Group  
Ricky Stanley-Thomas Bus  
Brett Kuchciak-1<sup>st</sup> Light  
Molly Chianello-Carmel Schools  
Justin Swanson-Bose Public Affairs Group

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Hanna made a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 minutes with Dwayne Vandiver seconding the motion. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

**ITEMS OF ACTION**

Notice of Intent to Re-adopt - 575 IAC 1-1-5

Ron Chew made a motion to start the process to re-adopt 575 IAC 1-1-5. Melissa Lechner seconded the motion, the committee voted. Motion passed

Luminaire UV light Air Purification-pilot program

Dan Fillenwarth with Luminaire gave a short presentation to the committee about their UV light Air Purification system. Frank Jackson from Ft. Wayne Community spoke to the committee about participating in the pilot program. After the committee asked Dan Fillenwarth and Frank Jackson multiple questions, Terry Butler made a motion to allow the Luminaire UV Light Air Purification on Indiana school busses. Melissa Lechner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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Northwest Allen County Schools – pilot program request for solar panels to be mounted on roof of the bus

The committee discussed the request for solar panels to be mounted on the roof of school busses in Indiana. The committee members spoke with the bus distributors in attendance. Dr. O’Neil made a motion to check with the OEMs for efficacy and clarification on the install process before they decided further. Melissa Lechner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

Catalytic converter anti-theft cages

Sgt. Kath explained about the theft of catalytic converters and about a specific catalytic converter anti-theft cage and the install. The committee discussed the issue and the cage. Mike LaRocco and Sgt. Kath will draft language to present to the committee at the September meeting regarding the cages.

575 IAC 1-5.5-4 Wheelchair and occupant restraint systems – specifically extra tiedown requirements for heavy wheelchairs

After discussing the issue, Dr O’Neill would like to speak with wheelchair manufactures. The committee would like for Mike LaRocco, Dr. O’Neil and Ricky Stanley to look into this issue for clarification on wording.

575 IAC 1-5.5-7 Special light

Ricky Stanley is asking for clarification on 575 IAC 1-5.5-7. He is asking for a language change from two lights to allow for 1 LED light. The committee agreed for Mike LaRocco to work on verbiage for the specification change.

Wheelchair curtain

Carmel Schools is requesting approval to pilot BraunAbility’s wheelchair curtain. After discussing the curtain, Ron Chew made a motion to allow the pilot program, Dwayne Vandiver seconded the motion. Motion passed to allow the program.

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Emergency Exit wording location

Sgt. Kath would like to make sure that the committee agrees with allowing the ISP inspection manual to align with the FMVSS pertaining to the placement of wording for the emergency exits. The ISP manual states the location to be directly above the emergency exit window and the FMVSS allows it to be on top, bottom or above the window. Dwayne Vandiver made a motion to allow the change with Terry Butler seconding the motion. Motion passed to allow the change.

Lighted "School Bus" sign and the emergency exit words above rear door

The wording for this is also different from the FMVSS. Melissa Lechner made a motion to allow the wording to be changed to align with the FMVSS with Dwayne Vandiver seconding the motion. Motion passed.

GPS antenna issue

Mike LaRocco informed the committee that Ft. Wayne Community contacted him regarding the installation of new antennas on their busses to allow for 5G. This required no action from the committee.

Lion Bus - Type A designation versus Type D designation

Mike LaRocco informed the committee about a Lion Bus that is a Type A bus per the company but should be designated a Type D bus in Indiana.

Battery disconnect and child alert notification system

Sgt. Kath informed Mike LaRocco via email that while a trooper was conducting bus inspections, he found a district that had a Starcraft bus that had a master disconnect switch that shuts off all fans, heaters, AC, etc and it also shuts off the child alert notification system. IAC specifically states, "The reset switch must be a push-button type and not require a key. An override (bypass) capability is prohibited". This was to inform the committee that this is now something ISP will be looking for.

Electric bus heating system

Mike LaRocco informed the committee that there had been a question brought to him about heating systems on an electric bus. He advised the committee that none of the specs are electric bus specific. The committee agreed that all specs should be looked at in regards to electric busses specifically.

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NCST

Mike LaRocco informed the committee that NCST has cancelled until 2025 and any changes to the NSTSP manual would go through the interim approval process.

**Correspondence**

Yellow card revocations.

**Next meeting date: September 14, 2021 at the Indiana State Police Commercial Motor Vehicle Division.**

**Adjourn**

Dwayne Vandiver made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Ron Chew seconding the motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary

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Date