



**Minutes  
Indiana State School Bus Committee  
September 25, 2003**

<u>Voting Members</u>	<u>Non-Voting Members</u>
Michael Benway, Chairman	Mark Clawson
Ron Chew	Brent Alspach
Gary Lake	John Perkins
John Rahn	Clifford Zehr
Jeff Mathews	Kent McDaniel
Alfred Stout	Pete Baxter, Committee Administrator
Linda Risley	
Gerald Coleman-	
Absent	
Linda Risley	
Gerald Coleman	

The chairman called the meeting to order. Visitors in attendance included Mr. Dennis Petticord, Division of School Traffic Safety. The chairman inquired if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. With none being made, Mr. Chew made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Stout. Motion carried unanimously.

The item of action was an appeal from the Indiana State Police Department concerning seat belt webbing cutters. The State Police Department inspection manual for school buses required the device on any school bus equipped with a wheelchair tie down system, child restraint system, or passenger lap belt. The State Police Department requested Committee approval for the device consistent with the language in the inspection manual. The appeal was requested after the Department of Education approved the device as optional equipment. Following a discussion, Mr. Mathews made a motion to require a seat belt webbing cutter no later than October 1, 2004 on every school bus. The device must have a full width handle, an enclosed blade, and be mounted within arms reach of a seated driver. Seconded by Mr. McDaniel. Motion carried unanimously.

The first item of discussion was the use of assistive devices to re-enter a school bus through an emergency door. There was discussion on devices and procedures to facilitate re-entry. There was consensus to identify three or four interested school corporations or transportation providers to develop concepts or models of assistive devices for review by the Committee.

The second discussion item concerned revisions to Title 575 IAC, school bus specifications. The Committee Administrator outlined a general framework for the revision. Mr. Baxter suggested: a) reducing the number of administrative regulations by having only one school bus body and chassis specification rather than having those items duplicated for each of the four bus types; b) have the Department of Education maintain a list of approved optional equipment or features rather than continuously go through the rule promulgation procedure each time a new feature is approved; and c) repeal the purchasing specifications rules, but include them as recommendation or general guidance information. There was consensus for this format.

The final item of discussion concerned padded protection panels adjacent to power lifts as specified in 575 IAC 1-5.5-10(b) and (d). Mr. Zehr led the discussion and presented illustrations of panels and power lift designs. Since enacting this rule changes in power lift design have eliminated the need for the panel. There was consensus to not enforce this specification and to repeal the rule in the next revision of Title 575 IAC.

In items of information the administrator:

- Reviewed correspondence

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Stout made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. McDaniel. Motion carried unanimously.