

## SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION PILOT TASK FORCE

### Task Force meeting notes January 16, 2009

Chairperson Steve Theall convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. It was attended by:

Steve Theall, MOEC	Dennis Laabs, Consultant	Jay Sullivan, DESE
Kim Payne, HEC	Gerry Mazor, LABBB	Joanne Haley Sullivan, NR
John Crafton, MASBO	Linda Durette, LABBB	Mike Laliberte, NR
Carla Jentz, ASE	Jeff Dias, Gifford School	Susan Rees, ACCEPT
Chris Lynch, DESE	Nicholas Oliver, maaps	Perry Davis, MASS
Colleen Cavanaugh, MAPT	Jim Major, maaps	

The January 2008 Network Summary Report was distributed and discussed. It was recommended that networks be surveyed to identify the challenges they continue to face. Data collection and the issue of confidentiality continue to be an issue for several networks. Members were informed that the DESE has submitted a memorandum addressing data confidentiality to their legal department for review. Discussion relative to sustainability of the network with the impact of budget cuts was discussed. Networks were asked to submit reports on this topic for review at the next meeting.

Utilizing the October 1 SIMS data for FY08, each network was asked to build a table listing all districts within their geographic catchment area and report the number and percent of out-of-district students being transported by network or multi-district transportation. Networks were also asked to submit a summary of outreach activities and responses from the districts.

It was decided that it is imperative for the Task Force to make every effort to reach out to all superintendent in the Commonwealth. Some awareness was created when the Donahue Reports was sent out in September to every Superintendent through MASS. It was recommended that a letter now be sent out to remind superintendents about the project and identify the district base and contact information for each individual network. Mr. Davis and Ms. Jentz volunteered to prepare this.

It was decided that Task Force representatives will make presentations at each of the organization's annual meeting this year. A subcommittee of, Ms. Cavanaugh, Mr. Theall, Ms. Jentz and Mr. Major will work on a Power Point presentation. Members were asked to provide their organization's meeting dates to Ms. Cavanaugh. The MOEC website is activated and has allocated space for transportation; a list of website components will be prepared and submitted to MOEC. It was also suggested links to the various professional organizations be available on the website.

The chart documenting total costs for Special and Regular Education from 1997-2007 was discussed. It was decided to compare rising transportation costs with teacher salaries over the same period. Also, the chart will be broken into two five-year increments for comparison. Ms. Cavanaugh will revise the chart.

Updates were provided on; driver training, private school data collection, homeless transportation, RMV Task Force and draft contract language.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next scheduled meeting will be held, March 18, 2009.