

**Ross Valley Yellow Bus Transportation Services**

**Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement**

**Joint Committee**

**July 27, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85702704302?pwd=WDc0MWJUVnZGRc85VEp1QnNUUExlZz09>**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL 7 PM**

**JEPA Board members:**

Town of San Anselmo: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery

Town of Fairfax: Renee Goddard, Garrett Toy

County of Marin: Katie Rice, Nancy Vernon

Ross Valley School District: Wesley Pratt, Marci Trahan

Marin Transit: Kelly Zalewski, Nancy Whelan

**II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Persons wishing to address the Joint Exercise of Powers (JEPA) Joint Committee on subjects not on the agenda may do so at this time. Please note, however, that the JEPA is not able to undertake extended discussion or action on items not on the agenda. Matters requiring action will be referred to the joint committee or staff or placed on a future JEPA meeting agenda. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

**III. JEPA BUSINESS MEETING**

| <b>Item</b>                              | <b>Presenter</b> | <b>Action</b> |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| A. Accept April 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes | Chair            | Approve       |

M/S Dave Donery, Renee Goddard to accept the April 13, 2020 minutes.

Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Renee Goddard, Garrett Toy, Wesley Pratt, Nancy Vernon, Marci Trahan  
Noes: None  
Abstain: Katie Rice

|  |                   |            |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| B. Update from Ross Valley School District | JEPA Board Member | Discussion |
|--|-------------------|------------|

Marci Trahan, Superintendent of Ross Valley School District (RVSD), reported out that school year will start with distance learning on August 19. A schedule will be presented to the Board of Trustees on August 4. In person learning is not allowed at this time since Marin County is on the state's watch list. Trahan stated that she has been asked to consider joining waiver to move forward with in person learning initially but would not consider until more

information comes out from the state. Currently, in person learning would start no sooner than September 8 and would be based on variety of factors.

Fairfax Mayor Renee Goddard asked if Trahan was getting many requests to join waiver effort. She replied that she had been communicating to staff and parents and mostly been getting positive feedback. She stated that this fall's online learning would be a new online learning experience called the "virtual learning academy."

Nancy Vernon asked if students would return all at once or be a phased approach. Trahan stated that students would return using phased approach, with initial focus on those kids most in need. RVSD is currently looking at an am/pm model or A/B model. RVSD will bring students on campus prior to in person learning to educate them on safety protocols to ensure positive rollout and experience. Supervisor Katie Rice suggests that students also "practice" on yellow school bus before service begins.

Dave Donery commented that Trahan and RVSD were doing a good job.

No public comment.

C. Update on Grant Applications for Subsidized Bus Passes                      JEPA Board Member      Discussion

Vernon stated that RVSD received a Community Partner Grant of \$10,000 from County of Marin to subsidize bus passes for income qualified bus passes and Ross Valley Charter received a \$5,000 Community Service Grant from County of Marin for same. These funds must be used in 2020-21 school year to be awarded. Goddard asked what percentage of need it would cover and Zalewski answered approximately 25% of need. Vernon stated that the fundraising campaign planned to raise funds for free and reduced bus passes would be resumed when timing is right.

No public comment.

D. Review of Public Health Guidelines                      Marin Transit      Discussion

Zalewski presented highlights of published Yellow Bus Specific Guidance, including health screenings and mandatory facial coverings. Marin County's Public Health Officer will be issuing final guidelines before in person learning begins. The main challenge is limited student capacity on a bus in order to provide necessary social distancing – the MCOE transportation yellow bus task force (including Marin Transit) has submitted draft guidelines calling for ability to seat 28 students on bus vs. current guidelines of 14 students.

Goddard asked how the lottery winners will be determined and Zalewski replied that lottery would run as expected, with parents going in order that they received their code. Number of buses may change depending on number of passholders and number of students allowed on a bus.

San Anselmo Councilmember Brian Colbert asked if any constraints from Michaels Transportation. Zalewski replied that drivers would not be doing health screening because if student had covid symptoms, drivers aren't in position to turn students away. RVSD Trustee Wesley Pratt asked if drivers would be doing temperature checks and Zalewski clarified that they would not. Drivers are comfortable with wearing a mask, cleaning in between routes and having seating assignments

if needed. California Highway Patrol (CHP) won't allow hand sanitizer on board since a potential fire hazard given alcohol content. No other issues arose with Michael's or other agencies.

Trahan stated that wellness checks would be handled by family in the morning before school. Child will hand the teacher a signed form before entering classroom. In 5th grade and middle, students can sign form themselves. Details to be worked out. Zalewski stated that Marin Transit and Michaels would work with RVSD so as not to duplicate steps.

No public comment.

E. Update on 2020/21 Planning and Service Marin Transit Approve

Zalewski stated that 332 families signed up for the lottery representing 367 students. Total requested one-way bus passes of 607 compared to 866 one-way buss passes sold in 2019/20. Colbert asked Marin Transit why they thought the number was lower and suggested a survey to help us understand the number better.

Pratt asked if any other school district had made decisions about their yellow bus programs. Zalewski responded that Mill Valley suspended their program last spring, Tiburon hasn't decided, Shoreline must continue for access purposes and Miller Creek status was unknown.

Colbert asked if there was a relationship between number of students on the bus pre-covid and current number in lottery in relationship to financials. Zalewski stated that it's good time to reflect on real purpose of running the bus service so as to inform how we use the dollars. Potentially could run a 3-bus program without selling any passes given \$370,000 subsidy.

Goddard asked what information Michael's needed from the JEPa regarding number of busses and start date. Zalewski replied that Michaels would want to know as soon as possible and while we can reduce number of busses according to the contract, Michaels does have ability to change rates if busses change enough. We are not obligated to pay if school is not physically in session.

Current draft budget shows \$370,000 in subsidy for bus service before any pass sales. Budget scenarios developed based on pass sales vs. type of school schedule (e.g. A/B or AM/PM). Operating a program at the same service level as prior years is not feasible without incurring a deficit for a sixth bus. A 4-bus program is the largest feasible program that has limited risk of deficit.

Garrett Toy asked if there was a deadline for deciding service needed. Zalewski replied that we must give Michael's 10 days' notice for changes. Could do an initial suspension then increase to entire semester or other increments if needed if we adhered to noticing requirements. Goddard asked if yellow bus service begins and service needs change, can we adjust? Would require proper noticing.

Colbert asked if there was concern about Michael's economic security. Zalewski replied that this was a concern, but no one at Michael's has given her any indication that's the case.

Group discussed length of suspension with end date ranging from October 1 to November 1. Colbert asked Trahan to weigh in. She agreed that a formal suspension made sense because once RVSD can do in person learning, parents will still have opportunity for virtual academy, so good strategy to see what parents are going to choose. If parents don't have confidence that school will be going back to in person, they may not want to purchase. Trahan concurred that

end of November was potentially the most conservative and realistic date and Dave Donery, Brian Colbert, Wesley Pratt (all parents of RVSD students) agreed.

JEPA members concurred that current contributions from jurisdictions would remain in place. Town of San Anselmo has adopted their budget; Fairfax to adopt in near future.

Marin Transit to work with Marci Trahan on communication that will go out to parents regarding suspension and start of yellow bus.

Supervisor Katie Rice asked Zalewski to tell Michael's how much we appreciated their work.

No public comment.

M/S Dave Donery, Renee Goddard to suspend yellow bus service until October 31 with a November 1 start date.

Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Renee Goddard, Garrett Toy, Katie Rice, Nancy Vernon, Marci Trahan Noes: None

Absent: Wesley Pratt

M/S Brian Colbert, Nancy Vernon to support the price of \$490 per one-way full-price pass for 2020/21 school year.

Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Renee Goddard, Garrett Toy, Wesley Pratt, Nancy Vernon, Rick Bagley Noes: None

Absent: Katie Rice

F. Set date, time, location and agenda topics for Marin Transit Approve  
next meeting

JEPA meeting to be scheduled by doodle poll approximately 14 days in advance of end of suspension date.

IV. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

V. **ADJOURNMENT 9 PM** - to the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vernon  
County of Marin