

# NATRONA

## COUNTY SCHOOLS

**TO:** Board Budget Committee

**FROM:** Steve Hopkins

**DATE:** December 8, 2010

**SUBJECT: Student Transportation Report**

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This student transportation report is being presented to the Board Budget Committee for review and discussion as directed by Chairman Degenfelder, Treasurer McCall, and Superintendent Dvorak. They requested a report that included a historical overview of the current student transportation system, a review of the operating guidelines for the system and comparative data that includes annual miles, students transported and expenditure measures. The information in this report was obtained from NCSD records, Wyoming Department of Education reports and direct contact with Laramie and Campbell County School Districts.

### **Historical Overview:**

In 1996 the Board of Trustees adopted open enrollment for Natrona County School District. They directed the student transportation system be modified to accommodate open enrollment within the limits of state statute, rule and regulation that govern operations and funding for student transportation. The superintendent, assistant superintendent, and director of transportation worked with WDE to ensure the changes met their requirements for operations and reimbursement.

Over the next two years the system was modified to match open enrollment. By the fall of 1998, the system was fully operational. The student transportation system has been operated under the Board's directive since then. The system has been adjusted to accommodate opening and closing of schools, increases in summer education programs, activity and field trips, and school day transportation for students accessing programs and classes at different sites during their school day.

### **Operating Guidelines:**

The Board's decision to have student transportation accommodate open enrollment and the state statutes, rules and regulations are the overarching operational guidance. We operate the system within the same reimbursement rules that all Wyoming Districts must follow. To date the District has not incurred a student transportation expense that is not reimbursable by the State

funding system or the entity utilizing the service. The following components are operational limitations in any student transportation system, including Natrona County:

- Size of Fleet – the state has established the size of our fleet and it has not changed since 1997. From an operational perspective this determines the number of buses you can deploy and the number of students that can be transport.
- Hours of Operation – the time you pick up and drop off students is maintained within tolerable limits for students and their parents.
- School Schedules – the start and end times for schools create operational limits.

These operational limitations combined with WDE rules that establish eligible/reimbursable student transportation expenditures are the operational guidelines for NCSD's student transportation system in place today.

**Comparative Data:**

The attached schedule shows historical comparative data of fleet miles, students transported, and transportation expenditure data. The WDE has transportation statistics for 1990, and transportation statistics and transportation expenditure information for all years beginning with 2000, which was readily available.

