

Hanover Public Schools

Matthew A. Ferron
Superintendent of Schools



Thomas R. Raab, Ed.D.
Business Manager

Deborah St. Ives
Assistant Superintendent

Joan Woodward
Student Services Director

Memorandum

To: Hanover School Committee
From: Thomas R. Raab, Business Manager
Cc: Matthew Ferron, Superintendent of Schools
Date: March 14, 2018
Re: FY 19 Regular Education Transportation Contract

As we discussed at our last meeting, I had to set aside our transportation bids for several reasons. First, bidding two options for the elementary configuration in September 2019, proved to be unsuccessful. Initially, I thought it would assist the School Committee in its decision making regarding start times; in fact, bidders had a difficult time pricing out two different options and it was difficult to compare bids without a decision regarding elementary start times under the consolidation plan. It also became clear that a transportation option that allowed both elementary schools to begin at the same time would be cost prohibitive as it would significantly increase the number of buses necessary to keep routes under 45 minutes. Second, the bid specs need to be reviewed to make sure that Hanover is getting the best possible deal in terms of pricing, but also in terms of the age of the bus fleet and the responsive customer service we have come to expect. Third, it was brought to my attention that if we bid charter services along with the Regular Education Transportation bid, it is likely we'll get better pricing for the entire package. For these reasons, I've set aside both bids and request the School Committee vote to accept the year five FY 2019 option presented by our current provider when the contract was awarded in FY 2014. This option is competitive and already included in our FY 2019 Budget 3.0. It will allow me time to review the bids of surrounding towns and make our bid specifications stronger. Further, it will allow the School Committee time to consider options and make a decision regarding elementary start times under the consolidation plan beginning in September 2019. Bidding the contract with a firm decision regarding start times will allow us to properly compare bids and make the decision that is in the best interest of Hanover. I look forward to rebidding our Regular Education Transportation in the late Summer and/or early Fall 2018. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions so that I may be fully prepared to answer them at the meeting.