

## Re-imagining DCS Transportation

A portion of the 2008 bond issue was authorized to renovate the bus garage. Preliminary estimates came in significantly over budget, mainly due to implications of constraints on the current site. At the same time, concepts for a bond-funded roadway to separate auto and bus traffic at Wylie School were not yielding an ideal solution.

We hypothesized that integrating both projects could potentially yield a better solution and also achieve operational improvements. Midwestern Consulting was engaged to conduct a technical study of the situation. The study is posted on our website

(<http://sites.google.com/a/dexterschools.org/dexterity/home/transportation>). The findings involved several recommended initiatives:

1. DCS should consider relocating the transportation to a new site on the 83 acre campus
2. DCS should consider changing the dual-tier system to a single-tier system
3. DCS should begin to purchase larger bus units to be able to respond to changing demographics
4. DCS should consider implementation of a no-transport zone primarily within one mile of the campus.

A series of three public meetings was held in February to discuss the study, with about 60 people in attendance each night. The study was discussed in detail, questions were asked, detailed answers provided, and a survey taken. Frequently Asked Questions are posted at [http://web.dexter.k12.mi.us/Transportation%20restructure%20forum%20Q\\_A.pdf](http://web.dexter.k12.mi.us/Transportation%20restructure%20forum%20Q_A.pdf). Using the study, operational improvements and community feedback from these meetings, we are in the process of creating a Draft Plan for Transportation restructuring initiatives to be implemented for the 2010-11 school year.

Concurrently, Washtenaw Intermediate School District is creating a plan to provide transportation service for all districts in the county as a united operation. Once we have the details of their plan (late April), we will compare it to ours. Administration will then evaluate the most appropriate approach and generate a recommendation.

Administration will share the Draft Plan and provide opportunities for input according to the following schedule:

·**March 25- Public Meeting:** Present Draft Plan and receive public input

·**March 31- Public Meeting:** Present Draft Plan and receive public input

·**April 12 Board Meeting-** Board receives administration's recommended plan for Re-imagining DCS Transportation

·**April 26 and/or May 10 Board meeting-** WISD countywide plan presented to Board for information and comment; Receive Board and public input. Administration will make a final decision sometime shortly thereafter.

Superintendent Rob Glass will also be available for Coffee and Conversation at Foggy Bottom on: **March 17th**, 7-8 a.m.; **March 23rd**, 7-8 p.m.; **April 21st**, 7-8 a.m.