

School Zone and Pupil Transportation

McAdam Elementary & High School

April 2007

School District 18

Background:

The superintendent has the authority for placement of students. Each school in School District 18 has a defined school zone.

In 2000-2001 and 2005 an administrative review of school zones was conducted. Changes were made both in 2001 and 2005 to correct duplicate information, improper or incorrect street names, unclear language, etc. In 2005 the school zones were "cleaned up" in preparation of adding school zone information to the district website.

The school zone information available since 2001-2002 defined Christie Ridge area as being Harvey and route 4 as being McAdam, thus the confusion.

The area in question is Route 4 highway from the junction of Route 3 including Christie Ridge. This area has historically been considered a "grey zone", meaning there was confusion about which school students are required to attend.

In June 2006, in planning for the 2007-2008 school year, it appeared that the contracted conveyance serving Christie Ridge area would not be renewed for the 2007-08 school year. The reason – the contract was transporting only 5 students from the area that could not be accommodated via a special arrangement (final year of high school). Eleven students from the same area are transported to school in Harvey. A conference call was held in June 2006 with the McAdam and Harvey Principals and they were advised that (1) the contracted conveyance would not be renewed and (2) transportation to McAdam for the students from Christie Ridge would not continue beginning the 2007-08 school year. It was decided that the parents would be notified in the fall of 2006. This was done. The contractor was also notified that the District would not be renewing the contract.

On April 11, 2007 the Superintendent and Director of Finance & Administration met with the PSSC at McAdam High School. A strong plea to continue transportation from Christie Ridge and Harvey to schools in McAdam was made by the Parent School Support Committee, parents and the Mayor.

Recommendations:

1. Change the school zone descriptions for McAdam to state: Route 630 (Prospect Ridge, St. Croix), Route 4 (Prospect Ridge, St. Croix to Canada/US border at Vanceboro, ME), including all side streets/roads; also all streets within the Village of McAdam. (see attached). Christie Ridge is officially zoned for Harvey School zone.
2. The continuation of contracted service (van) will not continue.
3. There is no flexibility in the Harvey bussing system to enhance options for McAdam.
4. An official alternate placement request is required for students from Harvey (including Christie Ridge) to attend school in McAdam. Normally when this is granted it is with parents being responsible to provide transportation. The exception to the district policy is that transportation would be provided for these students under the following conditions:
 - Students will be picked up and dropped off at a “common bus stop” – W & R Gillespie Ltd.* at Thomaston Corner. Parents are responsible to get their child to and from the common bus stop.
 - Students along Christie Ridge will be picked up and dropped off along route 4.
5. Present Bussing Options A and B to McAdam School Administrators for consideration. (see attached). Require preference back from schools by May 7th.
6. Inform parents by May 31st of the transportation details.
7. Make route and school zone changes to website by end of school year.

*The location of the common stop is determined by the District and subject to change.

Option A

Morning: Bus # 74 (Ed Hanselbacher) begins run at Route 3/Route 4 intersection (Gillespie's Garage) at 6:35 and drop at the schools in McAdam at 7:00-7:05 – then continue the run back to Harvey schools

Afternoon: Bus # 74 leaves Harvey schools with McAdam area K-12 students, and Harvey area grades 3-12 students for Route 3, Route 4, finishing in McAdam at approximately 4:05. Bus would take K-12 students to Route 4/Route 3 intersection (Gillespie's Garage).

Pros: Bus # 74 deadheads between Harvey/McAdam anyway – no additional kms/cost. Has no effect on bus # 79 and current McAdam service.

Cons: Early a.m. pick-up. Early supervision at school. Long wait for K-12 students for bus after school.

Option B

Morning: Bus # 79 (Steve McArthur) does two morning runs. The first run beginning at Route 3/Route 4 intersection (Gillespie's Garage) to McAdam schools (7:15-7:45); then to St. Croix to schools (8:00-8:30). Times are approximate and would have to be adjusted during the first few weeks of school depending on actual run times.

Afternoon: Bus # 79 would take K-2 students home around town and to St. Croix; then grades 3-5 students around town; then grades 3-12 students to St. Croix. At approximately 4:10, the bus could then take grades K-12 students to Route 3/Route 4 intersection (Gillespie's Garage).

Pros: Provides for more convenient a.m. pick-up times for Harvey students.

Cons: Additional deadhead kms/cost morning and afternoon. No time for McAdam round-town morning pick-ups except for special needs student. Requires early supervision at the school for Harvey students. Long wait for bus after school dismissal for K-2, however, this is a similar situation that currently exists for McAdam area students attending FI in Harvey.