

Boundary Review Update - April 30, 2010

Over the past decade there have been a number of changes to the operation of student bus transportation. The four local school boards formed a consortium, called STS (Student Transportation Services), to deliver transportation services to students. The new consortium was reviewed by the Ministry of Education which recommended that bus routes be reviewed with the objective of becoming more efficient. The efficiency of bus routes now is a main factor in transportation funding for school boards. As a result the school board, using a more modern routing software program, is reviewing all transportation but particularly courtesy rides. In past years there had been some leniency as to who could qualify to receive transportation via the school bus. These were commonly known as “courtesy rides.” In more recent times, the opportunity to provide such services has continued to decrease. Generally, courtesy rides are no longer available. This is having an impact and we are working with the school communities and the Transportation Consortium to resolve the situations on school boundary lines.

Superintendent of Business Penny Allen is leading a review of the boundary situations in the Leamington and Kingsville areas. The goal is to ensure that school boundaries are confirmed with any adjustments necessary to ensure transportation guidelines are met and our students receive the transportation necessary per school board policies. A report of recommended boundary changes will be presented for approval to our Trustees at the May 19 Board meeting. The report will be available on the GECD SB web site as part of the Board Agenda package on May 14.