



# MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT # 111

*Mission: To inspire and motivate our students with an educational experience that leads to achievement and success.*

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## TRANSPORTATION NEGOTIATIONS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY FAMILIES

Provided below are answers to some recurring questions MCHS District 111 has received from parents and families over the past few weeks regarding transportation negotiations. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Dave DiLorenzo, MCHS District 111 Director of Community Relations at [ddilorenzo@mchs.net](mailto:ddilorenzo@mchs.net). As additional, recurring questions are brought to the District's attention, we will add the questions and corresponding answers to this document. Please be sure to visit the "Negotiations Updates" page at [www.mchs.net](http://www.mchs.net) for the latest information regarding these negotiations.

8/11/2016

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

#### **Will school take place if the bus drivers and bus aides strike?**

Yes. We are pleased to tell you that we have partnered with Minooka CCSD 201 to create a plan in place that will allow us to begin school and provide all transportation services as usual, regardless of whether or not a potential strike takes place. This plan anticipates that all students who have been assigned bus transportation will be able to utilize that service beginning on the first day of school as planned, and that they will be picked up/dropped off at their regularly-assigned times. The only adjustment we anticipate is that students will be allowed into school a few minutes earlier than usual each day. During this time, they will be supervised in common areas of each campus.

Shuttle buses that travel between campuses and GAVC buses will also run as usual. In short, the school day will begin and end at the regularly scheduled times, bus pick-up and drop-off times will remain the same, and families and students should see only a slight difference, at most, in daily school transportation operations.

#### **Is a strike definitely going to happen?**

Only the Teamsters Local 179 know if/when a strike will take place. While the Teamsters Local 179 have filed their Notice of Intent to Strike and can legally go on strike as of August 15, a strike is not guaranteed to happen. The Board of Education fully intends to continue in the negotiations process and has every intention of agreeing upon a fair and equitable contract with the bus drivers and bus aides represented by the Teamsters Local 179 as soon as possible.

#### **Why don't you know if a strike is definitely going to happen or not?**

The bus drivers and bus aides represented by the Teamsters Local 179 are not required to provide any additional notice to the District of the specific date on which it intends to strike beyond the initial Notice of Intent to Strike. The District asked the Union for this information, and the Union declined to provide additional notice beyond what was required, which is why the District is proactively preparing to have school in the event of a strike.

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## **Have the District 111 Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 179 negotiated a contract together before?**

No – this is the first contract being negotiated between the District 111 Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 179.

## **Why are negotiations not currently happening?**

During the August 2, 2016, negotiations session between District 111 and the Teamsters Local 179, the Teamsters informed District 111 that it was canceling the upcoming negotiations session scheduled for August 8, 2016. No additional sessions have been scheduled, but District 111 is ready to resume negotiations when the Teamsters Local 179 are willing to return to the negotiating table.

## **Are any other negotiations sessions planned prior to the first day of school?**

Not at this time. The next negotiations session after August 2 was scheduled for August 8, but the bus drivers and bus aides represented by the Teamsters Local 179 canceled it. The Board of Education intends to continue in the negotiations process and is ready to meet in the coming days with the hope of agreeing upon a contract with the bus drivers and bus aides represented by the Teamsters Local 179 as soon as possible.

## **Why does the District 111 Board of Education not want to include fair share in this contract?**

Fair share will require drivers who decline to join the Union to pay a percentage of the individual Union dues (commonly 75-80% of full dues). From the District's standpoint, we cannot philosophically agree to an initial contract that forces drivers who do not wish to join the Union to pay this cost annually. In fact, the Board of Education received a petition signed by 37 drivers who do not want to see fair share included in the contract. With a total of 46 drivers in the union, that is over 80% of drivers who would be forced to pay fair share when they have stated in writing that they do not want to.

## **How will I be kept informed of any updates in the event of a strike?**

Should a strike take place, the District will provide you with a minimum of one update each day. The District will share information with families via SchoolMessenger telephone and email blasts, as well as through postings on [www.mchs.net](http://www.mchs.net).

## **How will I be notified of the end of a strike if a strike does indeed take place?**

The District will share information with families via SchoolMessenger telephone and email blasts, as well as through postings on [www.mchs.net](http://www.mchs.net).

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHOOL DAY**

### **Will there be an adjusted school day schedule?**

The District has a plan in place that anticipates school will run according to our regular schedule. Should the need arise to adjust the school day or transportation pick-up/drop-off times, families will be notified via SchoolMessenger telephone and email blasts.

### **How will my child get to and from school in the event of a strike?**

Bus transportation will be provided for students as usual. Students should anticipate being picked up and dropped off at their regularly-scheduled times. While every effort is being made to ensure



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the availability of bus transportation in the event of a strike, families are also invited to explore alternative options in lieu of bus transportation, including having parents/siblings drive students to school, carpooling with other families, and walking/riding a bicycle should they feel the need to do so.

### **With the possibility of more parents driving their children to school, what is being done to address the additional traffic?**

District officials are working with the Minooka and Channahon Police Departments to address traffic concerns. Because there may be a higher volume of traffic during the start and end of school each day, we encourage families that plan to drive to and from school to build some additional time into their commute as a precaution.

### **How will a strike impact students taking courses at Grundy Area Vocational Center?**

The District does not anticipate any change in bus transportation to and from the Grundy Area Vocational Center in Morris due to a potential strike.

### **How will a strike impact after-school sports and activities?**

The District does not anticipate any change in bus transportation to and from after school sports and activities in the event of a potential strike.

### **Does my student need to attend school on days during a strike?**

Yes. All truancy and compulsory attendance laws are in effect on all student attendance days – even attendance days during a strike.

### **Do strike days count as attendance days?**

Yes. Students are required to be in attendance when school is in session, but will not be penalized if they are absent or tardy due to lack of transportation.

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT CROSSING PICKET LINES**

### **Is it safe to cross a picket line?**

Picketers have been provided with guidelines to follow. They have also been instructed that they cannot obstruct the schools' entrances and exits. When approaching a picket line to enter or exit campus, we encourage drivers to: keep windows rolled up and vehicle doors locked, proceed slowly and avoid contact/engagement with any picketers, and avoid confrontations.

### **What if picketers block the entrances and exits to the schools?**

The District has shared with the Teamsters Local 179 where they can legally picket. They have been instructed that they cannot legally block school entrances and exits. While we are arranging to have police officers present to monitor these areas during the start and end of school each day, please feel free to contact the 24-hour non-emergency lines for the Minooka Police Department (815-467-2161) if picketers are impeding your path at a Central Campus entrance or exit, or the Channahon Police Department (815-467-2112) if picketers are impeding your path at a South Campus entrance or exit.

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