



October 26, 2007

**T**oday, I had the pleasure to speak with the Holly Chamber of Commerce. I wanted to share some the information that I shared with the members.

### Transportation

- The Holly Area School District consists of 124 square miles.
- 70% of the roads we travel are gravel roads.
- Our rural area consists of one village (Village of Holly) and all or parts of five townships: Holly, Groveland, Rose, Springfield, and White Lake.
- In-district service: Holly High School, Sherman Middle School, Karl Richter Campus, four elementary schools (Davisburg, Holly, Rose, and Patterson), and several worksites for students as well as the vocational center in Clarkston.
- 24 regular education bus routes; 11 special education bus routes which include seven LEAP routes
- Out-district service: two special education programs (Clarkston Autistic Program and in Bloomfield Hills, the Hearing Impaired Program)
- Our school district transports approximately 2,800 students per day.
- The average ride time for regular education students is 25 minutes each way.
- The average ride time for special education out-of-district students is 50 minutes each way.
- Our buses traveled a total of 618,596 miles last school year.
- Our 35 bus routes average 3.5 disciplinary actions per day. Percentage wise, that number amounts to **0.00125%** of the average number of students that ride our buses each day.

Why do I share these bulleted points? I want to make one point about our school district's budget regarding our transportation department.

### Holly Area School District Budget

Our **total budget** is approximately \$46.5 million. That figure includes:

- ⇒ General fund - \$37 million day to day operational fund
- ✓ Transportation is \$2.5 million of the \$37 million general fund budget.
- ✓ Debt retirement is \$7 million dollars to pay off existing bonds.
- ✓ Child care services amount to \$1 million.
- ✓ Food service amounts to \$1.3 million.
- ✓ Athletics amount to \$600,000.

Our average transportation cost per mile is \$4.16, well below the county wide average.

In the school year 1997-98, our school buses traveled 866,226 miles. In the 2006-2007 school year, our buses traveled 618,596 miles: a difference of 247,630 miles. At \$4.16 a mile, those 247,630 miles translates into \$1,030,140.80.

If we currently traveled the same number of miles that we traveled in the 97-98 school year, our costs would increase by over one million dollars. Unfortunately, reductions/modifications/adaptations to budgets are part of yearly financial reviews, planning sessions, and then final recommendations.

Oftentimes, individuals ask why don't we make all the runs that we used to make years ago. Bus route changes have been a part of the changing economic times that exist. As the upcoming months occur, I will know more about the state's economic forecast and its impact on our local school district.

Other areas, such as budget and curriculum, will be discussed in future Barnes-Grams in upcoming weeks and months.