



# Powhatan County Public Schools

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Division Superintendent

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Memo to: Powhatan County School Board

From: Dr. Margaret S. Meara, Division Superintendent *msm*

Subject: FYI : Information Regarding Shuttle Service Between Elementary Schools

Date: April 29, 2008

**The Problem:** There are actually two transportation issues with regarding to elementary school children.

1. The first issue is that we have been running a shuttle between the two existing elementary schools in order to accommodate children who attend one school but are in the care of someone else in the afternoon. This is usually a day care but can be a grandparent.

Currently, we run two shuttles in the morning and two in the afternoon. It has worked fairly well although the children who use the shuttle are late starting school in the mornings. This can be as much as twenty minutes.

The distance to Flat Rock Elementary creates a problem. A shuttle will take at least twenty minutes to travel to and from Flat Rock. The cost of running a bus is about \$2.25 per mile. It is approximately 9 miles one way. This is \$21.15 one way. Bus drivers make \$20.00 per hour including fringe benefits. Basically the cost would be \$31.15 per day one way. Multiplying that times two would be \$62.30 per day. The cost per year would be \$11, 214.00.

2. The second issue is that we have been transporting children to and from day care centers. We can continue to do this within each attendance zone, but we can no longer do this across attendance zones. For example, we cannot send a bus from the two western schools to Flat Rock. In the past, we provided this service because our buses already traveled to these areas. Now, buses designated for the eastern end of the county will not longer be traveling west.

**The Solution:** The Powhatan YMCA has agreed to provide before and after care at each Elementary School. The cost is very reasonable and provided free to families who cannot afford it. Mary Kay Gates, the director at the "Y" has been extremely helpful and cooperative.

**In Conclusion:** We are faced with serious economic problems. We can no longer afford to provide the same services as before. The taxpayers, through their elected representatives, chose not to fund us at a level in which we could maintain the same services as we have until this point. Consequently, the money is not available for the shuttle service.

I would like to ask the School Board to approve this plan as soon as possible. If the Board will do so by the June meeting, we will have time to notify parents of the change three months before school starts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.