

Tipton Community Schools Directors of Operations Monthly Report
From: C. Scott Wessel, Director of Operations
Report for September 2020

Last minute preparation/Corporation Meeting- We spent Tuesday, Aug. 11 preparing for Wed. The arrival of students.

There was an unsafe bus stop discussed. 2244 W. St. Rd 28. This is on an unmarked curve. Stopping on this curve would put many lives in jeopardy. Jim Voss, Bruce Schulenberg, Dr. Glaze and I decided to deem that pickup too dangerous. In the early 1990's that stop was deemed too dangerous to stop there. There are places in the county that are too dangerous for a bus to stop. A stop is deemed too dangerous if there is imminent danger for students or drivers. In those instances, alternate stops are offered to parents and students. We called the mother and offered an alternate pickup. Mom has decided to make the student a car rider for now.

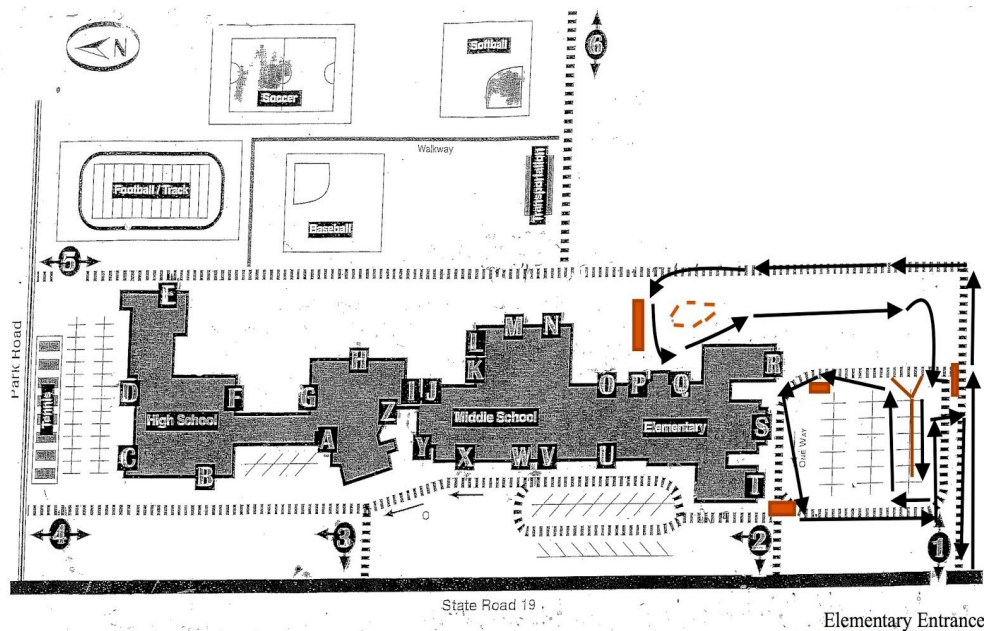
Bus Driver meeting-

In the opening meeting, bus drivers brought up the concern of having no subs. This is a valid concern that we have fought for years. If a virtual situation arises, it would be beneficial to the corporation to pay the drivers to learn a couple of routes for the "Buddy" system. This will make the "buddy" system work better. Paying drivers to learn other routes would be an excellent way to keep our drivers working if we have to go virtual.

School Started-

In the morning, buses drop off students at the high school, middle school and two doors in the elementary school. This pattern is working out very well. Students are in the building earlier than they were last year. Morning drop off on Wed. 8/12 went pretty well. There were a few calls about buses missing some kids, but overall pretty Smoothly. Those students who missed the bus were picked up and brought to school. The students and bus drivers were masked up and taking precautions. Students have been very cooperative with wearing masks. Traffic is always a concern. The cars were backed up a little bit on SR 19. This was monitored to see if a different traffic pattern was needed. The traffic on SR 19 continued to be a problem, so we thought of a different pattern.

New Traffic pattern established- Parents dropping off their children have a new traffic pattern. Cars are routed around the back of the building around some cones. We have created a roundabout. Parents have been very cooperative. The pattern has freed up traffic on SR 19. It has made it safer for the parents and children. Many of these parents would be stuck on SR 19 where they were sitting ducks. This is a much safer plan. It almost feels like a parade every morning.



New System to learn- On Wed. Aug. 12 "The Wave" dismissal system was implemented. The purpose of this system is to limit the number of students who are together at one time. The first time we did the wave dismissal was rough. Students, Staff and bus drivers did not know what to do. On day two of "The Wave" on Thursday, Aug 13 "The WAVE" took 11 minutes less time. We still had stragglers who did not know where they were going. The Boys and Girls bus drivers took them home. We are paying these drivers as if they had done the buddy system to make sure all the children get home safely. We hope to get to a place where no stragglers are left. The Wave has become successful. Many have asked to keep this system in place even when the restrictions have been lifted. There are a few students who still miss their wave. We have a backup plan in place.

[The Wave](#)

Update on transportation software needed- We are looking for new software to help with routing-Wed. Aug.19 at 10:00 AM Dale Dorsey to try to look at the 3d Ez routing system. The bus routing system we currently have is not meeting our needs. 3d Ez routing seems to be an excellent product that could help our efficiency. We currently use a product called Mason Lane. It is cumbersome to use and is outdated. With what we pay for Mason Lane plus just a little extra we can increase our efficiency. We will look at a few programs to make sure we have the best one available, but may be making a switch soon. The local transportation directors met and they are sending me recommendations on the software that they use.

Grants written- Much of the first part of this month was used up writing grants. I wrote a grant to the **United Way** for cleaning supplies and PPE. Tipton Community School Corporation was awarded a \$1100 grant for cleaning supplies. Stacey Hartley, Tim Calloway, and I wrote a grant to the **Tipton County Foundation** to try to get money to move the greenhouse to Tipton Community School Corporation. Stacey Hartley, Tim Calloway, Dr. Glaze and I have a meeting on 8/26/2020 with the Tipton County Foundation to try to win this grant. It looks promising to have a chance to get this greenhouse. I also wrote the Safe Schools Security Grant. This is a grant to fund the School Resource Officer. Results of this grant will be sent by September 30th.

Routes presented to the Board-Every year bus stops that have children crossing a state highway have to be presented to the School Board. Included in this document is a link to those routes. Many of the stops being presented are repeated from last year. In all cases, these stops have been evaluated. Many instances there is no viable alternative to these stops. There is always a safety plan in place if a student has to cross a busy highway. We also have included stops that children have to cross a busy road such as Division Rd. Again Safety plans are in place for these stops.

[Routes that cross Highways](#)

Ride Guide and Transportation Handbooks for approval-There is a Covid section added to each of these documents. This will be removed from these books when the Pandemic goes away and we do not have special procedures.

[Transportation Handbook](#)

[Ride Guide](#)