

October 12, 2016

A transportation hearing was held in the Brooklyn Middle School library media center on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 5:30 pm. In attendance were the Brooklyn Board of Education members: Mrs. Genna, Mrs. Coddling, Mr. Atchinson, Mrs. Lyons and Mrs. Trivella. Also in attendance were Dr. Mary Conway, Superintendent, and Mr. Alex Gill, Complainant. Also present were Mr. Gill's witnesses, Mr. Jean Paul Bernier and Mrs. Dawna Bernier.

Mrs. Genna called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Mr. Gill stated that he was representing his children, Ethan Masse and Abigail Gill. He stated that at present his children are not picked up by the bus at their home. They are required to walk one-quarter mile down Grant Hill Road carrying heavy backpacks in all types of weather. He expressed concerns about the potential dangers of his children waiting alone, and inconsistencies in the bus schedule. He feels it is irresponsible to ask his children to wait alone at the bus stop. This has been an ongoing problem for about one year.

Mr. Gill called Mr. Bernier as his witness. Mr. Bernier (116 Grant Hill Road) stated that Grant Hill Road is the highest point in the Town of Brooklyn. He stated that buses did traverse the hill in the 1970's. He also expressed concerns about the potentially dangerous people who walk around the area of Grant Hill Road. He stated that he spoke with the bus garage that told him the reason the buses did not go up Grant Hill Road was due to a routing problem. Mr. Bernier informed that he drives a logging truck up and down the road daily without a problem. There is a fence at the top of the hill, which can be moved if needed, and a drainage ditch, which hasn't been cleaned in 25-30 years, which can also be fixed to accommodate buses.

Mr. Gill stated that town dump trucks, plows and FedEx trucks travel the road on a regular basis in all weather conditions. He offered a possible solution being the use of a van or alternate vehicle from the primary bus company or a secondary transportation company, or an employee working for the school.

Mrs. Genna clarified that the children are picked up at the bottom of the hill and not at the driveway. She stated that many children are picked up at locations that are out of the sight of their parents and guardians.

Mr. Gill stated that this issue has affected his children's education due to absences. He called a witness; Mrs. Dawna Bernier (116 Grant Hill Road) stated that she drives her children to the bottom of the hill every morning. She, too, has concerns about the safety and well being of children waiting alone at the bottom of the hill. She stated that sending a bus up the hill is not a convenience; it's a safety issue. She informed that she is aware of a child molester living on Grant

Hill Road who has not reported his whereabouts to the state. She stated that the town is obligated to provide safe transportation.

Mrs. Trivella has spoken to the bus company about Grant Hill Road. The bus company has concerns about the pitch of the hill and road conditions during inclement weather. The bus company looks at the risk to all children on the bus.

Motion for the Board of Education to uphold the decision of the Brooklyn School Administration.

(Trivella / Lyons)

Abstained: Atchinson

Motion Passed

Motion to adjourn at 6:25 pm

(Coddling / Lyons)

Unanimous vote to approve

Respectfully Submitted

Joann M. Engel

Recording Secretary