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January 5, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT AMENDMENT: School Transportation Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That the School Committee approve an amendment to the following contract for regular student transportation services; funds to be provided from the General Fund. Procurement procedures for this amendment have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Contractor	Period of Amendment	Negotiated Rate during Closures
Eastern Bus Company PO Box 514 Somerville, MA 02143	9/8/20 – 10/9/20	50% of daily per bus contract rate
	10/13/20 – 6/30/21	70% of daily per bus contract rate
	10/13/20 – 6/30/21	100% of monitor contract rate
	9/8/20 – 6/30/21	50% of daily per bus contract rate for buses not in use (continuity of service).

DESCRIPTION:

This contract amendment allows continued payment to the vendor for the purpose of ensuring that transportation services, an essential operational service, continue during the Covid-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On June 5, 2020, the Governor approved an Act Relative to Municipal Governance During the COVID-19 Emergency, Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, amended on November 10, 2020 by Chapter 201 of the Acts of 2020, in which sections 12 and 13 allow a city or town to approve a payment for school or education-related services through June 30, 2021 despite the service contractor being unable to perform services as a result of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and the governor’s declaration of a state of emergency. Mass. DESE has provided guidance that school districts should: *“continue payments for outsourced operational services that are needed to ensure continuity of essential services when schools reopen. Such payments may be conditioned on negotiated changes to contracts”* related to the state of emergency. The amendment gives consideration to the vendor’s fixed cost and requires the continued payment of salaries and benefits to its employees related to the Cambridge contract.

SUPPORTING DATA, RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter III, Section 12...” motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money I require the affirmative vote of four members.”

BUDGET REFERENCES:

Fund		Account		Dept.	
15000	General Fund	53301	Student Transportation	885750	Transportation

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth N. Salim, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools