

Greetings,

When the Board of Education hired me in July of 2017, they asked me to review all operational aspects of our district. I have been working on this task over the course of this school year. In doing this, I learned the district would benefit from partnering with a contracted service provider for bus transportation.

At the January 15, 2018, Special Session Meeting of the Board of Education, I recommended the Board approve a partnership with Kobussen Bus Ltd, for bus transportation. The Board approved a motion in this regard.

I see this partnership as a wonderful opportunity for many reasons:

- Kobussen has been successfully partnering with school districts for over 20 years.
- Kobussen currently has approximately 30 partnerships with school districts.
- From a Drivers' perspective:
 - More annual income
 - Similar wage
 - Unemployment in the summer
 - Or
 - Drive in the summer for various Kobussen routes
 - Drive in the summer for Cadott half-day summer school, seven weeks
 - Similar benefits
 - Matching 403(b)
 - Advanced levels of safety training
 - Installation of four cameras on each bus
 - Available extra drivers
 - Same bus
 - Same route
 - Sign on bonus
 - Referral sign on bonus
 - On site dispatcher
- From a Mechanic's perspective:
 - More annual income
 - Similar or better benefits
 - Matching 403(b)
 - Working in the district's bus garage
 - Working on the district's buses
 - Able to drive bus routes for extra pay

-From a parents' or community members' perspective:

- They would really see no change

 - The Cadott name will remain on buses used for athletics and activities.

 - The Kobussen Bus Ltd name would be on daily route buses

 - Engagement of Kobussen in the Cadott Community at parades, fairs and such.

-From the District's perspective:

- The experience of Kobussen Bus Ltd safely transporting students on buses for over 20 years with approximately 30 school districts

- An approximate annual savings of \$150,000-180,000/year for the next several years

- Cost effective money management for taxpayers, using annual savings for maintenance projects

- The opportunity for Jamie, Director of Buildings/Grounds and Transportation, to focus more time on needed capital maintenance projects for the district

- Our District will still own the bus garage as it will be leased to Kobussen Bus Ltd

- Our District will still own the buses as they will be leased to Kobussen Bus Ltd

-Transition timeline:

- I have asked our bus drivers if they want the transition to occur in April 2018 or June 2018 or August 2018. Once I have the results back from our bus drivers' vote, we will use that information to set our transition date.

I hope the information I have shared with you, in this article, is informative and answers questions you may have had as a result of rumors and misrepresentation of facts regarding this topic. Please feel free to share this information with folks who ask you questions or share incorrect information on this topic.

Go Hornets!