

Last year, the Viking Pride Foundation made its most significant contribution to the Winthrop Public Schools since the inception of the foundation - the donation of school buses. The fundamental concept behind the purchase of the buses was that by managing the district's transportation program on an in-house basis, as opposed to contracting it out to a third party, significant savings could be realized and that savings would be reinvested into co-curricular activities. The preliminary results provided to us by the School Department prove that this investment is a success, and will actually yield greater returns as the transportation program expands. Most importantly, in three more years, the busses will be paid off by Viking Pride but will continue to provide a long term savings to the school department until the end of their useful 10-15 year life.

During the 2009-2010 school year, the School Department "outsourced" its entire transportation program to a third party at a cost of over \$124,000. This figure includes the daily transportation of students to and from school (\$59,220), athletic team's travel outside of Winthrop (\$61,342), and field trips (\$3,468). For the 2010-2011 school year, the first year of the VPF buses, a total of \$97,166 was spent on transportation, **a savings of over \$26,000 from the prior year**. This figure includes third party service for September and October 2010 as the VPF buses were not on the road until November. Conservative estimates for 2011-2012 are **projecting a savings of over \$49,000!** Here is the breakdown of the 2010-2011 school year transportation expense, using financials provided by the Town of Winthrop:

	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012****</u>
Daily School Run:	\$59,220	\$33,410*	\$20,910
Athletics:	\$61,342	\$33,640**	\$29,550
Bus Fuel:	included	\$7,380***	\$9,225
Bus Insurance (all 4 buses):	included	\$3,200	\$3,200
Est. Maintenance Cost:	included	\$5,000	\$0 (paid by bus rentals)
Field Trips:	\$3,468	\$2,423	\$0 (paid by bus rentals)
Transportation Coordinator:	included	\$10,000	\$10,000
Medicare/Work. Comp. Ins:	included	\$2,128	\$2,128
	\$124,030	\$97,181	\$75,013
	TOTAL SAVINGS	\$26,849	\$49,017

*includes \$17,333.50 to private bus company for September & October daily route while VPF buses were being purchased

**includes \$9,999 to private bus company for September & October athletic travel while VPF buses were being purchased

***the fuel estimate is based upon driver travel logs totaling 18,000 miles traveled, at 9 miles per gallon, at a per gallon cost of \$3.69. This amount could fluctuate up or down depending on the actual price of diesel fuel paid by the town.

****Based on monthly average cost estimates as the school year is not yet complete.

In order to get a true picture of the savings the buses offer to the School Department, compare the average monthly expense paid to the third party company for 2009-2010 - \$12,403, to the monthly average for November 2010 to June 2011 - \$6,983. That's a monthly average savings of over \$5,000 that translates to an approximate school year savings of over \$50,000. That savings does not include any revenue realized from additional rental agreements with third parties during summer months or the daily expanded town-wide pay pick-up/drop-off service implemented during October 2012 by Superintendent Macero.

In terms of generating additional revenues utilizing the buses for the School Department, the prospects for further successes remain promising. Already this year, Superintendent Macero has expanded the daily school pick-up and drop-off route to include a pay-for-use town-wide pick route for Gorman Fort Banks students, over and above the daily Point Shirley commute. Not only does this increase revenue for the district, it also helps to address one of the School District's most challenging safety issues - traffic during peak commute times at the Gorman Fort Banks school.