

## Travel Bus

In December the WUSD Governing Board approved the purchase of 15 conventional route buses, 1 special education bus and 2 15-passenger activity buses with bond funds. Now our work turns to purchasing a travel bus for field trips, athletics and music events.

The fact that we are located quite a distance from other schools and places where events are held required that we consider all of our options. Although this may not be general knowledge, in some cases our students travel up to eight hours (4 hours each way) to compete or participate in an event, oftentimes arriving home in the middle of the night. Many school districts, based upon travel distances, pursue the option of the purchase of a charter-type bus. The charter-type bus provides a bit more room, individual seating for doing homework, sleeping and includes expanded storage space. Although we looked into this possibility, we decided to stick with the purchase of a traditional yellow and black school bus, which can also be used on routes and is built to a safer standard.

This school bus, again purchased with bond monies, would include additional features designed to accommodate our students for longer periods of travel. The additional features include an interior insulation layer, provides extra storage for equipment, instruments and supplies, and contains upgraded seating. We believe each of these components will make the school bus more practical as students travel long distances.

All of the new buses should arrive at the end of June. We will trade in all of the other existing buses, with the exception of four of our current newer model buses, which will continue to be in use on a daily basis. I want to once again thank the community for their support of our students and I trust each of us will rest a bit easier knowing that their travels will take place on new, safe and mechanically sound buses.