

SCHOOL BOARD:

ROBERT G. BOKNEVITZ, President
SUSAN SHAFER, Vice President
RUSSELL J. IWANSKI, Treasurer
CHRIS FINCH, Clerk
NICHOLAS BANACH, Member

St. Francis School District
4225 South Lake Drive St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235
Phone (414) 747-3900
Fax (414) 482-7198

Blake A. Peuse
Superintendent

May 8, 2019

Dear Members of the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee,

We recently received communication from MCTS that Route 89, a morning and afternoon route that provides service to schools within the St. Francis School District is being eliminated at the conclusion of this school year. As a District that serves approximately 1150 students, including a large number of students who open enroll from outside the district into St. Francis, we feel strongly that maintaining this bus route provides an equitable solution for students to participate in our high quality programs and experience success.

As mentioned, the St. Francis School District's student population is comprised of approximately 40% of students who do not reside within the physical boundaries of the City of St. Francis. In particular, our High School serves over 300 students from outside of the district out of 520 students. We believe wholeheartedly that the students who choose the St. Francis School District do so because of the high quality education, safe learning environment, and access to public transportation options. We also have students who live within the City of St. Francis borders who access this reasonably priced transportation option. We are presently aware of approximately 30 families who use this service at times throughout the school year.


The possibility of ending this route is not new to the District. In 2009, the School Board created a resolution to Milwaukee County to maintain this route for the benefit of students and the community (Resolution Attached). In December 2017, Administrators from the St. Francis School District met with then County Supervisor David Sartori, James Martin, Milwaukee County Transportation Director, and Dan Boehm, MCTS Director, to discuss the impact of ceasing the route. In February of 2018, Supervisor Sartori reported that the route was going to be continuing for the 2018-19 school year. In September of 2018, the St. Francis School Board brought forth a similar resolution to continue Route 89 in an ongoing basis for the benefit of the community and our student population.

Last week, High School Principal Michael Lewandowski, Director of Finance and Operations Jonathan Mitchell, and I met with County Supervisor Steven Shea to discuss the April 12, 2019 letter that we had received from MCTS. Many of the same issues were brought forth through this conversation. We were encouraged to bring forth information that would be considered by this committee to keep Route 89 in the budget for the betterment of our students and the community.

In closing, Route 89 creates a cost-effective transportation option for students inside and out of the St. Francis Community. The mission of the Milwaukee County Transit System is to provide reliable, convenient and safe public transportation services that efficiently and effectively meet the varied travel needs of the community and contribute to its quality of life. The service of Route 89 improves the quality of life by opening educational opportunities for students who would not otherwise have choices of access. Finally, this route supports the District in providing equity to all students regardless of background or resources available.

Student testimonials have been attached which outline some of their concerns. We believe in student and civic voice and appreciate their willingness to share their viewpoints on how the elimination of Route 89 would affect their futures and those of family members as well. Please consider this information as you work through a difficult budgeting process. We can certainly sympathize with Milwaukee County in this difficult budgetary process, but would ask that you consider the positive benefits of maintaining Route 89 for our students and the St. Francis community.

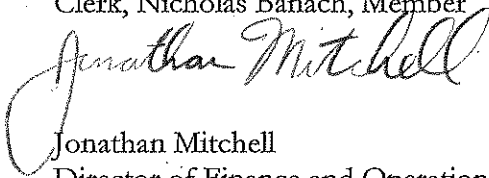
Sincerely,



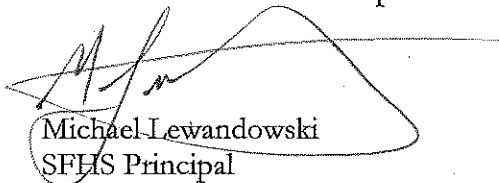
Blake A. Peuse
Superintendent of Schools

On Behalf of the St. Francis School Board Members:

Robert Bokneviz, President, Susan Shafer, Vice-President, Russ Iwanski, Treasurer, Chris Finch, Clerk, Nicholas Banach, Member



Jonathan Mitchell
Director of Finance and Operations



Michael Lewandowski
SFHS Principal

CC: County Executive Chris Abele (Electronic)
Supervisor Steven Shea (Electronic)

Enclosures:

Student Testimonials (6)
September 24, 2018 Board Resolution (1)
September 21, 2009 Board Resolution (1)
September 22, 2009 Correspondence (1)
MCTS Letter from April 12, 2019 (1)

I currently am a senior, about to graduate from highschool, but I do not want to see route 89 gone. My younger brother is still attending high school and without that route, he'd have no way to get to school besides walking at 4:30-5 in the morning. It is a 2 hour walk he can not take. Our parents can't drive him either because they have to work at 5 AM. We NEED this bus.

How will the Closing of Bus Route 89 effect your education at St. francis High School?

I take the bus home almost every day every week of school. If this route were to close I would have to some way to get home.

How will the Closing of Bus Route 89 effect your education at St. Francis High School?

Stopping the 89 will lead to many kids being late to class causing them to miss learning from their first or second hour classes. The 89 lines right up ~~with~~ with the 15 that helps me get to school on time ~~and~~ and it helps me get to work after school on time. The 15 tend to be late ~~and~~ a lot, the 89 always come at just the right time to get me to school on time. If it wasn't for the 89 I would of gotten many tickets for being late forcing my mother to pay them causing her to spend money she doesn't have. I'm a senior this year so after this year I won't be taking the 89, but there's still many other kids that do take it and many new kids that will be taking it. So the 89 shouldn't be closed.

-Jaten
J
Stack

How will the Closing of Bus Route 89 effect your education at St. francis High School?

The closing of the route will only prevent people from losing out on their transportation and education.

How will the Closing of Bus Route 89 effect your education at St. francis High School?

Some people don't have cars and alot of
students take the bus to ^{get to} work.
alot of students can't walk or get
picked up so they also take the
Bus



How will the Closing of Bus Route 89 effect your education at St. Francis High School?

This bus is main source of transportation for the kids at Saint Francis and taking that away will cause so many problems with kids attendance and eventually they're gonna give up. - James

SCHOOL BOARD:

ROBERT G. BOKNEVITZ, President
AMANDA J. BEDNARSKI, Vice President
RUSSELL J. IWANSKI, Treasurer
CHRIS FINCH, Clerk
SUSAN SHAFER, Member

St. Francis School District
4225 South Lake Drive St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235
Phone (414) 747-3900
Fax (414) 482-7198

Blake A. Peuse
Superintendent

St. Francis School Board Position Milwaukee County Transit Route 89

At the meeting of the St. Francis School District Board of Education on Monday, September 24, 2018, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board:

Be It Resolved:

WHEREAS the mission of the St. Francis School is "To prepare students to be literate and responsible world citizens and targets seven outcomes for student learning." These targets include:

- a. Proficiency in academic knowledge and skills;
- b. Proficiency in complex thinking;
- c. Proficiency in applications of information technology;
- d. Global perspective;
- e. Social competence;
- f. Ethical disposition;
- g. Self-confidence.

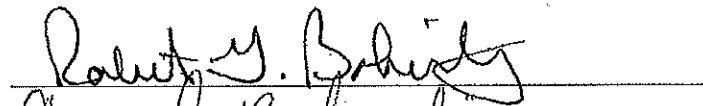
WHEREAS the St. Francis School District exacts this mission through the implementation of Six District Goals including: Nurturing Kinder and More Compassionate Schools; College, Career, and Life Readiness; Literacy and Math Excellence; Technology Facilitated Learning; Performance Feedback for Effectiveness and Accountability; and Continuous Improvement Practices;

WHEREAS the Milwaukee County Transit System, through the implementation of Route 89, supports the mission of the St. Francis School District through creating cost-effective transportation options for our students and the St. Francis community;

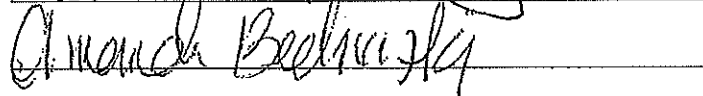
THAT the St. Francis School District Board of Education is in full support of continuing Route 89 as a method of transportation through the City of St. Francis, including stops at or near St. Francis School District buildings, in each budget cycle leading forward.

Signed:

Robert Boknevit, Board President



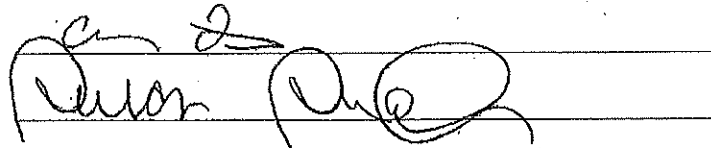
Amanda Bednarski, Vice-President



Russell Iwanski, Treasurer



Christopher Finch, Clerk



Susan Shafer, Member

Dated: September 24, 2018

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

St. Francis School Board Position on Possible Elimination of Milwaukee County Transit Route 89

Adopted at the September 21, 2009 Meeting

It is the position of the St. Francis School Board that the Milwaukee County Board must continue to serve students of the St. Francis Schools by maintaining Transit Route 89. Route 89 provides needed daily transportation to dozens of St. Francis School District students living in St. Francis and in the City of Milwaukee.

These students not only enjoy an affordable and safe ride to and from their neighborhoods, but are able to participate in extra-curricular activities that would not be available to them were it not for the bus route's flexible schedule.

The St. Francis School Board fears that the route's elimination for financial reasons, as a part of the Milwaukee County Board's budget deliberations, will have a significant negative impact on our students, who will no longer have access to transportation to and from school.

The St. Francis School Board asks the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to carefully consider the impact of Route 89 on the dozens of affected students who rely on it for transportation and on the St. Francis School District, as a whole.

Adopted and recorded this 21st day of September, 2009.

Jacqueline N. Hemmer, President

Russell J. Iwanski, Vice President

Robert G. Boknevitiz, Treasurer

Kathleen A. Rutter, Clerk

Diane F. Mayer, Member

SCHOOL BOARD:

JACQUELINE N. HEMMER, President
RUSSELL J. IWANSKI, Vice President
ROBERT G. BOKNEVITZ, Treasurer
KATHLEEN A. RUTTER, Clerk
DIANE F. MAYER, Member

St. Francis School District
4225 South Lake Drive St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235
Phone (414) 747-3900
Fax (414) 482-7198

Carol Topinka
Superintendent

September 22, 2009

County Executive Scott Walker
Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 306
901 N. 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1458

RE: Milwaukee County Transit System's Route 89

Dear Executive Walker:

This letter is concerning the future of the Milwaukee County Transit System's Route 89.

Route 89 provides dozens of students who reside both in St. Francis and Milwaukee, safe and affordable transportation to and from the St. Francis High School. For this reason, the County Board's elimination of this route as part of the budgeting process would place a significant burden on the needs of students and parents.

The enclosed position document received unanimous support in a vote by the St. Francis School Board at the September 21, 2009 meeting. I welcome your suggestions on how the St. Francis School Board could further support Route 89.

Once again, I thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the students and staff of the St. Francis School District.

Sincerely,

Carol R. Topinka
Superintendent

CRT:lcj

Enclosure

Milwaukee County Transit System

1942 NORTH 17TH STREET • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN • 53205-1697 • (414) 344-4550

RideMCTS.com



April 12, 2019

Mike Lewandowski
Principal, St. Francis High School
4225 S. Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235

Dear Principal Lewandowski:

The Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) is requesting your assistance in sharing some important information with your school's students, parents and staff.

Several special MCTS bus routes that currently provide morning and afternoon service near local schools, including yours, will be eliminated at the end of this school year.

This is how these changes will specifically impact your school:

- Following your last day of classes on June 12, 2019, Route 89 will no longer operate.
- This means the route will not be available for the upcoming Fall/Spring school year.

Here are some alternate bus options to consider:

- Riders who are willing to walk a few minutes to get to a bus stop could consider utilizing Routes 15, 52, 55 or 48.
- Route maps, schedules and trip planning tools are available on RideMCTS.com and the Ride MCTS app.
- Any families who would like personalized assistance planning their bus rides can contact me directly at 414-937-3250 or khoffman@mcts.org.
- A representative from MCTS would be available if your school is interested in having a transit information table at any future open houses, orientations, etc.

These changes in service are being made because the special routes carry relatively few riders and have a higher than average cost per rider. We hope that our regular route options in the area will allow as many people as possible to continue riding MCTS.

Thank you for helping us spread the word so that families can plan accordingly.

Sincerely,

Kristina Hoffman
MCTS Director of Marketing & Communications