

## Colebrook Special Meeting & School Board Meeting Agenda

<b>Date</b>	8/6/2024		
<b>Time</b>	5:30 pm Special Meeting/6:00 pm School Board Meeting		
<b>Location</b>	Colebrook Gymnasium		
<b>Chairperson</b>	Tim Stevens		
	<b>School Board Members</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>SAU Members</b>
Tim Stevens	Cayenne Amey	Kim Wheelock	Dana Hilliard
David Brooks	Julie Brunault	<b>Assistant Principal</b>	Bridget Cross
Rhonda Lyons	Nate Lebel	Stephanie Cameron	
Robert Murphy			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>		
	<b>Special Meeting: Area Agreement</b>		
1.	<b>Roll Call:</b>		
2.	<b>Agenda Adjustments:</b>		
3.	<b>Hearing of the Public:</b> (15 minutes)		
4.	<b>Special Report:</b>		
5.	<b>Reading of the Minutes:</b> <a href="#">Colebrook School Board Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2024</a>		
6.	<b>Principal Report – Kim Wheelock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Approve Athletic Policy Changes</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">August Principal Report</a></li> </ul>		
7.	<b>Superintendent’s Report:</b> Dana Hilliard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">August Superintendent Report</a></li> <li>• Accept Resignation – Brianna Sabourin</li> <li>• Minute Taker Stipend</li> </ul>		
8.	<b>Business Administrator’s Report:</b> Bridget Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DocuSign deadlines for Payroll and AP</li> <li>• <a href="#">Hydro Credits Agreement</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pre-K Students on School Buses</a></li> <li>• Approval for Asbestos Quote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Insurcomm</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Approval for clean &amp; service boiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Colebrook Plumbing and Heating</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Daniels Heating Solutions</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Approval of Lead Remediation Grant</a></li> <li>• Donation from Beverly McDaniels</li> </ul>		
9.	<b>Unfinished Business:</b>		
10.	<b>Other:</b>		

11.	<b>New Business:</b>
12.	<b>Information:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letter to Principal</li></ul>
13.	<b>Hearing of the Public:</b> (15 minutes)
14.	<b>Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (c)</b>
15.	<b>Meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colebrook School Board Meeting – August 20, 2024 Colebrook Academy and Elementary School Library at 6:00 pm</li></ul>
16.	<b>Adjournment</b>

## Colebrook School Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	6/4/2024
<b>Time</b>	6:00 pm – CAES Library
<b>Location</b>	Colebrook Academy & Elementary School library
<b>Chairperson</b>	Tim Stevens

### Attendance

Attendance Legend: **P** - Present **E** - Excused **A**- Absent **R** - Remotely

School Board Members				Principal		SAU Members	
P	Nathan Lebel	P	Cayenne Amey	P	Kim Wheelock	P	Bridget Cross
P	David Brooks	P	Julie Brunault		<b>Asst. Principal</b>		
P	Rhonda Lyons	P	Tim Stevens	E	Stephanie Cameron		
P	Robert Murphy				<b>College Career &amp; Technical Education Director</b>		
	<b>Student Board Members</b>			E	Tia Cloutier		
E	Jamie McLain						
P	Sandra Minigell						
<b>Public in Attendance: Christine Sullivan, Theresa Marie Deuschle, Lisa Brooks, Richard Cole, Jake Mardin, Nicholas Hurley, Lathi Lawton-Haynes &amp; Donna Jordan</b>							

### Minutes

Item	Subject	Action
1.	Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Stevens at 6:00 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.	
2.	Agenda Adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Solutions/Hydro Options – accept funds by school district as off takers of energy. The town would receive \$2,545.00 each year for 5 years totaling \$11,000. Bridget will get usage reports from Eversource.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Hearing of the Public:</b> Opened public session at 6:01 pm  <b><u>N. Lebel/R. Murphy:</u></b> Motion to end 15-minute public session at 6:01 pm.	<b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries
4.	<b>Special Report</b> – Kiwanis Park Grant (Community Development Finance Authority – CDFA) is requesting letter from district stating tax exemption status. <b>N. Label/D. Brooks:</b> Motion to request drafting letter from the district regarding tax exempt status.	<b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries

5.	<p><b>Reading of the Minutes:</b>  <b>R Murphy/J Brunault:</b> Motion to approve the Colebrook School Board Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2024, with correction.</p>	<p><b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carried</p>
6.	<p><b>Principal Report –</b>  Student Report – Sandra discussed the drama club and upcoming plays they will be working on. She reviewed the yearbook dedication, Key Club, refurbishing the gardens and the dance sponsored by Student Council. The Broadcasting Club now has 166 subscribers.</p> <p>June Principal Report – Kim reviewed her report. Reviewed the kindergarten registration this year at 22 students so far for the 24/25 school year.</p> <p><b>N Lebel/C Amey:</b> Motion to approve the 2025 spring trip sponsored by the World Language Club for all students to either Central Europe or Japan.</p>	<p><b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carried</p>
7.	<p><b>College Career &amp; Technical Education Director’s Report –</b> Tia Cloutier</p>	
8.	<p><b>Business Administrator’s Report –</b> Bridget Cross</p> <p><b>N Lebel/R. Murphy:</b> Motion to approve the addition of two holidays for SAU and Colebrook School Support Staff.</p> <p>Discussion on Current Budget Surplus Potential Expenditures:</p> <p><b>R Lyons/D Brooks:</b> Motion to approve the DS Security Solutions quote for cameras at the Tech Building for \$3,841.00</p> <p><b>N Lebel/C Amey:</b> Motion to approve the PA Hicks &amp; Sons quote for dug out repair plus miscellaneous items \$882.63</p> <p><b>D Brooks/C Amey:</b> Motion to approve the quote for option 1 from DHI for the Culinary Training Area \$40,905.00</p> <p><b>R Murphy/J Brunault:</b> Motion to approve the quote from Colebrook Carpet for Hallway 1 at \$7,313.83, Hallway 2 at \$4,188.10 and the Office at \$5,755.09 for a total of \$17, 257.02</p> <p><b>C Amey/D Brooks:</b> Motion to approve the VT Recreational Surfacing &amp; Fencing quote for \$1,648.00</p> <p><b>C Amey/D Brooks:</b> Motion to approve TAC-2 Communications quote for the internal communications system. The amount approved for radios is \$23,000.00</p> <p><b>D. Brooks/R. Lyons:</b> Motion to approve the 24/25 Colebrook School Board Meeting Schedule of 2 meetings per month. No meeting in July and the new schedule will begin in August 2024.</p>	<p><b>VOTE:</b> 2 Yes Votes; 5 No Votes – Motion Denied</p> <p><b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE:</b> 6 Yes Votes; 1 No (Rhonda Lyons) Vote Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> 6 Yes Votes ; 1 No (Rhonda Lyons) Vote – Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p>

	<p>Discussion on the SCEP funding</p> <p><b><u>D. Brooks/R. Lyons:</u></b> Motion to approve the meal pricing for the 24/25 school year.</p> <p><b><u>R. Lyons/J. Brunault:</u></b> Motion to approve the Food Service Management Contract for the 24/25 school year.</p> <p><b><u>C. Amey/R. Murphy:</u></b> Motion to accept Call Boys Landscaping mowing proposal at \$4,500.00.</p> <p><b><u>R. Murphy/D. Brooks:</u></b> Motion to go into non-public <b>RSA 91-A:3, II (a)</b> at 7:29 pm.</p> <p><b><u>J. Brunault/N. Lebel:</u></b> Motion to come out of nonpublic session at 7:44 pm.</p> <p><b><u>R. Lyons/C. Amey:</u></b> Motion to approve teacher nominations for the 24/25 school year.</p> <p><b><u>C. Amey/N. Lebel:</u></b> Motion to accept Dr. Cloutier’s resignation providing she fulfills her contractual obligations.</p> <p><b><u>R. Murphy/J. Brunault:</u></b> Motion to go into non-public <b>RSA 91-A:3, II (c)</b> At 7:49 pm</p> <p><b><u>D. Brooks/R. Lyons:</u></b> Motion to come out of non-public session at 8:25 pm</p> <p><b><u>C. Amey/D. Brooks:</u></b> Motion to authorize a letter be sent in regard to the letter discussed in non-public.</p>	<p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p> <p><b>VOTE :</b> Motion Carries</p>
9.	<b>Unfinished Business</b>	
10.	<b>New Business</b> – Discussed the cell phone policy and it will be reviewed by the policy committee when they meet in July. Would like to see the policy become uniformed across all districts as students can attend all schools for different classes.	
11.	<b>Information –</b>	
12.	<p><b>Hearing of the Public:</b> The public session was opened at 7:23 pm</p> <p><b><u>D. Brooks/J Brunault:</u></b> Motion to end 15 minute public session at 7:26 pm.</p>	<b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries
13.	<p><b>Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colebrook School Board Meeting Tuesday, August 5, 2024 CAES Library at 6:00 pm</li> </ul>	

14.	<b>Adjournment:</b> <b><u>N. Lebel/J. Brunault</u></b> : Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm.	<b>VOTE:</b> Motion Carries
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Bridget Cross  
Acting Superintendent

# Principal Board Report

August 6, 2024

K. Wheelock



## Enrollment

PreK	14	9 <sup>th</sup>	19
K	23	10 <sup>th</sup>	28
1 <sup>st</sup>	19	11 <sup>th</sup>	29
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17	12 <sup>th</sup>	29
3 <sup>rd</sup>	17	CTE	
4 <sup>th</sup>	23	Total: 105  Combined Total; 7/30/24 298	
5 <sup>th</sup>	21		
6 <sup>th</sup>	15		
7 <sup>th</sup>	23		
8 <sup>th</sup>	21		
Total CES	193		

## School News/Updates

- New Admin Assistant nomination Val Maxwell
- New Custodian Kerry Haynes
- Marik Boire elementary boys soccer (current coach)
- Brooke Kenney junior high girls soccer (current coach)

### Activities:

#### Summer 2024 Colebrook

#### Ongoing throughout the summer:

- Getting Alma ready for the school year-making sure student info is correct,
- Creating courses & classes
- Entering new students and confirming all new student paperwork is present
- Purchase Orders (placing, receiving, checking off in Tyler Systems-scanning checked off paper copy to Adrianna & filing in binder)
- Delivering to rooms items that arrive
- Sorting through student paper files and moving to next grade file drawer
- Transfers of students leaving district

- Organizing current inventory of supply closet
- Filing past year purchase order binders/attendance folders/other documents

Date Specific Activities:

- Title I Summer school was taught by Kristen Wheelock and Lisa Grant
- The Recreation department using playground, gymnasium, rooms 133 & 135 6/17-8/1/24 (will clean up room 133 8/2/24 & possibly 8/5/24)
- The HVAC system is still being worked on all throughout the floors at various times throughout the week(s) (they did not give us a schedule)
- The rooms are being cleaned one by one but are random due to all the different companies in and out of the building doing different types of work but we will update as floors are completed
- Driver's Ed is 5pm-7pm Sundays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays in room 207 with the last class being on 7/28/24
- Public Meeting in the gym 5:30pm-9pm 8/6/24
- Kindergarten Camp three days week of 8/12/24
- Popsicles with Principals during Kindergarten Camp
- 8/15/24 10-10:45 Jess & Anna virtual SAU7 Quarterly Review with Alma
- 8/19/24 Debbie Boivin (head of Abbey Group) in Cafe for training 8am-2pm
- New Student and Freshman Orientation 8/21/24
- Staff Admin days 8/22-8/23/24
- Chalk the Walk with Student Council 6pm-7pm 8/26/24
- 8/27/24 First Day of School
- The new outdoor basketball court is in process
- Chris Hebert is putting a kitchen in room 141 this summer sometime





## Superintendents Report

Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Colebrook School Board

Dana S. Hilliard

**August:** Just like that and it's August! It is hard to believe that a month has already transpired since officially coming onboard. I am so honored to be surrounded by a team whose foundation is built upon trust, dedication, respect and the Yankee work ethic. That team also refers to each of you! In just a month's time we have reset how we function as an SAU, opened the doors of communication and are working on fostering an understanding of celebrating each school's uniqueness and value to community. All while gaining a broader perspective on how we are all part of SAU 7.

As calendar days turn, we continue to inch closer and closer to the beginning of the school year. We are looking forward to our Admin retreat where we will gain a better understanding of how we can improve our team approach. We will also focus on developing measurable goals for the year and how we can reach them through open communication and support from all members of the team.

As the full district gathers on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will welcome new members to our SAU 7 family. We will celebrate our team spirit and begin to journey together with our SAU 2024-2025 theme "Dream".

*Your Dreams*

*School Dreams*

*Community Dreams*

*SAU 7 Dreams*

All of us have **dreams**, without dreams there are no goals, no hope. Our focus this year will be to take our individual **dreams**, school **dreams**, community **dreams** and SAU 7 **dreams**, and create a common path where all of us can journey towards success. When we succeed our students succeed, when we fail our students fail.

While as Americans we pride ourselves on our independence, we are aware that our independence is also linked to the interdependence each of us has with each other. The values of “Neighbor helping neighbor” or “Being thy brothers/sister’s keeper” has been the bedrock of every community that has overcome adversity and reached their defined goals and successes. We are the stewards of each other, we will define our journey and our goals through our **“Dreams”**. As we start and continue along our path, throughout the year all voices will be heard. The voices of board members, administrators, staff, parents and students. While there will be times that we walk as individuals, we journey knowing that every member of SAU 7 will be on the trail together, heading in the same direction. Some will stop for breaks, when they do, we will support. Some will question why we are heading in the direction we are, when they do, we will answer. The process of building a team is never easy, maintaining a team is even more difficult. However, the alternative results have never harvested any meaningful successes.

So let us all begin our journey to **“Dream”** and turn those dreams into our teams’ successes.

**Goal Setting for SAU 7 Board:** I would like the board members to consider moving forward with an October Joint Board meeting for the purpose of Goal setting for the 2024-2025 school year. I have been in contact with Rick Alper from Primex who will guide us and moderate the goal setting for free. The meeting would take place in October. I will be including more information for you in your Joint Board packets.

**Admin Retreat:** The full Admin team is gathering this week on both the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for our annual retreat. The team is guided this year by Sue Bergman Chief Inspiration Officer of Learning Is Contagious LLC. Sue has over twenty years’ experience in education and is highly sought after for her hands – on collaborative approach. Sue will be joining us on August 6<sup>th</sup>. On August 7<sup>th</sup> the team will be lead and guided by Rick Alper, consulted from Primex. I have used Rick for well over a decade in helping build and foster collaborative approaches with a team and helping to develop measurable meaningful goals. Rick is also on deck to aid our SAU Joint Board on a similar journey.

Prior to the retreat each member of the team completed a self-assessment leadership test (DISC personality type assessment). The DISC assessment is used to uncover individual leadership

styles along with strengths and triggers. The information was then shared with both the individual and the full team to gain a better understanding of self and each team member

**August 15<sup>th</sup> SAU Staff and Board Mixer:** On August 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm we will hold an SAU/Board mixer. The purpose will be to enjoy each other's company and for board members to meet SAU staff and SAU staff to meet you. No other agenda items, just Ice Cream and a chance to meet each other. We are hoping this can take place outside (as long as mother nature co-operates). In the event of rain, we will move it to the café at Colebrook academy and Elementary School.

**Full Steam Ahead:** We are full steam ahead as we continue to prepare ourselves for the official beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Recruitment and hirings are still taking place. We still have several openings district wide (Unfortunately we are in good company with surrounding SAU's). As we get closer and closer to the point of no return the principals, members of the SAU team and I will all develop contingency plans that will allow us to provide the best possible opportunity for our students. In some of those cases, we will continue to seek and advertise for openings into October with the possibility of casting the net again after the December holiday break.

**Current Hirings to date:**

**Pittsburg School**

Hannah Kingsbury - Teacher  
Josiah Riley - Athletic Director & Paraeducator  
Zackery Wallace - Paraeducator  
Aczariah Ludwick-Benson - Paraeducator

**Colebrook Academy and Elementary School**

Heather Brown - Teacher  
Debra Mardin - Teacher  
Brandi Covell - Guidance Counselor  
Mariah Noyes - Paraeducator  
Nicole Pariseau - Paraeducator  
Tracey McKinnon - Paraeducator  
Kerry Hayne - Custodian  
Valerie Maxwell - Administrative Assistant to the Principal

**Stewartstown Community School**

Teri Hammond - Teacher  
Kelly Roy - Paraeducator  
Karen Pariseau - PT Speech Paraeducator

**SAU 7**Chris Paquette – Interim IT Director

**Current Openings to date:**

**SAU#7**

Information Technology Technician (Interviews taking place)

**Colebrook School District**

Colebrook School Board Minute Taker (1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm)

Art Teacher

MS Science Teacher

MS Math Teacher

MS & HS Special Education Teacher

Student Assistant Program (SAP) Counselor (Interviews taking place)

(3) Paraeducators

Boys' Elementary Soccer Coach

Girls' Junior High Soccer Coach

**Pittsburg School District**

Elementary Teacher

Physical Education Teacher

Paraeducator

School Bus Driver

**Stewartstown School District**

School Bus Driver

**Off:** I am planning on currently taking two days of vacation this summer; Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday August 12<sup>th</sup>. Don't worry Pittsburg, I will be there for your 6pm school board meeting



As always, I will be checking emails.

**Non-Public** I am recommending that the board go into non-public this evening to discuss two issues.

**Upcoming Dates of Interest:**

August 5<sup>th</sup> – Stewartstown School Board Meeting 5:15 pm

August 6<sup>th</sup> Columbia Special School Board Meeting 4:00 pm/School Board Meeting 5:00 pm

Colebrook Special School Board Meeting 5:30 pm/School Board Meeting 6:00 pm

August 6<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup> Admin Retreat

August 8<sup>th</sup> – SAU Board Meeting

August 12<sup>th</sup> – Pittsburg School Board Meeting

Aug 15<sup>th</sup> – SAU Staff and Board Member Mixer 3pm at the SAU

August 20<sup>th</sup> – Colebrook School Board Meeting

August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Welcome Back Staff (in Pittsburg)

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Pittsburg School Board Meeting

August 27<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School (Students)

“We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking we employed when we came up with them” – Albert Einstein



FREEDOM ENERGY REVOLUTIONIZES

# HYDRO AND SOLAR GROUP NET METERING

## HEAR FROM GNM MEMBERS

### State of NH

*"The Group Net Metering program offered by Freedom Energy Logistics is definitely a value add for our state's energy management. With simple agreements the state can use electricity and receive money while supporting renewable energy sources, like local hydropower, without building or modifying infrastructure. I recommend this program to all municipal leaders seeking to enhance their fiscal and renewable energy strategies."*

**THOMAS BARRASSO**  
State Energy Manager

### Pinkerton Academy

*"At Pinkerton Academy, we pride ourselves on making smart, strategic decisions that benefit our entire school community. Participating in the Group Net Metering program with Freedom Energy Logistics has allowed us to turn our regular electricity usage into a steady stream of quarterly rebates. This has been a fantastic tool for us, providing extra funds that are directly reinvested into improving student services and facilities. The program is real, it's simple, and it works wonders for our budget."*

**ANDREW DA PRATO**  
Director of Project Planning

### Coos County, NH

*"As County Administrator of Coos County, I have been thoroughly impressed with the Group Net Metering program facilitated by Freedom Energy Logistics. The promise of quarterly rebates has been fulfilled to our expectations. This program requires no initial investment and fits perfectly with our existing energy contracts, making it an incredibly efficient way to enhance our county's revenues. I can assure any skeptics that the benefits are very real and can be substantial."*

**MARK BRADY**  
County Commissioner

## Group Net Metering FAQs

### Is Group Net Metering (GNM) Too Good To Be True?

No, it's understandable to be skeptical, but Freedom Energy's Group Net Metering (GNM) is a legitimate program that allows renewable energy generators to partner with municipalities.

### What Does It Mean To Be An Off Taker Or Member In A Group Net Metering Program?

Being an off taker or member in a Group Net Metering Program means committing to use renewable energy. By doing this, you help renewable energy generators sell their excess energy and contribute to a cleaner environment and can earn revenue.

### Are There Any Costs Associated With Participating In A Group Net Metering Program?

No, there are no costs involved. Participation only generates additional revenue.

### Does the Program Offer Flexibility?

Yes, the program offers members flexible commitments with a variety of options to meet your municipality's needs on a month-to-month basis.

### What Are The Environmental Benefits Of Group Net Metering?

Group Net Metering promotes renewable energy in the State of New Hampshire, reducing carbon emissions and combating climate change. By participating, your organization helps utilities decrease fossil fuel dependence, conserves natural resources, and fosters a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations.

### Is The Program Offered By Other Companies?

No, the Hydro+Solar Program and Standby Program are offered exclusively by Freedom Energy Logistics.



(877) 292-4232 | [felpower.com](http://felpower.com)



# HYDRO+SOLAR GROUP NET METERING PROGRAM

## Get Paid While You Wait!

Under Freedom Energy's **UNIQUE AND EXCLUSIVE HYDRO+SOLAR PROGRAM**, you earn hydro rebates while waiting for the solar array to become operational. As solar arrays can take up to two years to build, Freedom Energy eases this waiting period by enrolling you in our hydro program. Once the solar array is online, you can seamlessly switch from hydro to solar energy.

## ACT NOW!

Explore GNM's  
Financial  
Advantages  
Before Wider  
Eligibility

## Why Partner with Freedom Energy on GNM?

### Freedom Energy's Quarterly Financial Distributions



Renewable energy projects share proceeds from surplus electricity generation with other electric utility account holders, known as group members. Freedom Energy distributes checks to group members every quarter as the project administrator.

### Green Up the Grid



By participating in GNM you'll support the growth and maintenance of renewable energy. Preserving our existing hydro fleet and promoting additionality through the construction of new solar.

### Decade of Leadership in GNM



As an experienced Group Net Metering Administrator, Freedom Energy brings a decade of expertise in GNM management in New Hampshire, managing 140 million kWh across 27 municipalities.

### NH Communities' Trusted Choice



Our current client portfolio features communities such as the State of New Hampshire, Nashua and Exeter School Administrative Units (SAUs), the towns of Merrimack and Londonderry, the University of New Hampshire (UNH), and Cheshire County.



# FREEDOM ENERGY REVOLUTIONIZES HYDRO AND SOLAR NET METERING PRICING

## What is Standby Hydro?

Standby Hydro is our innovative month-to-month program offering exclusive benefits for businesses seeking flexible energy solutions. It pays participants \$0.002 per kWh for pledged kWh, providing a unique opportunity to earn from surplus generation.

### Key Benefits

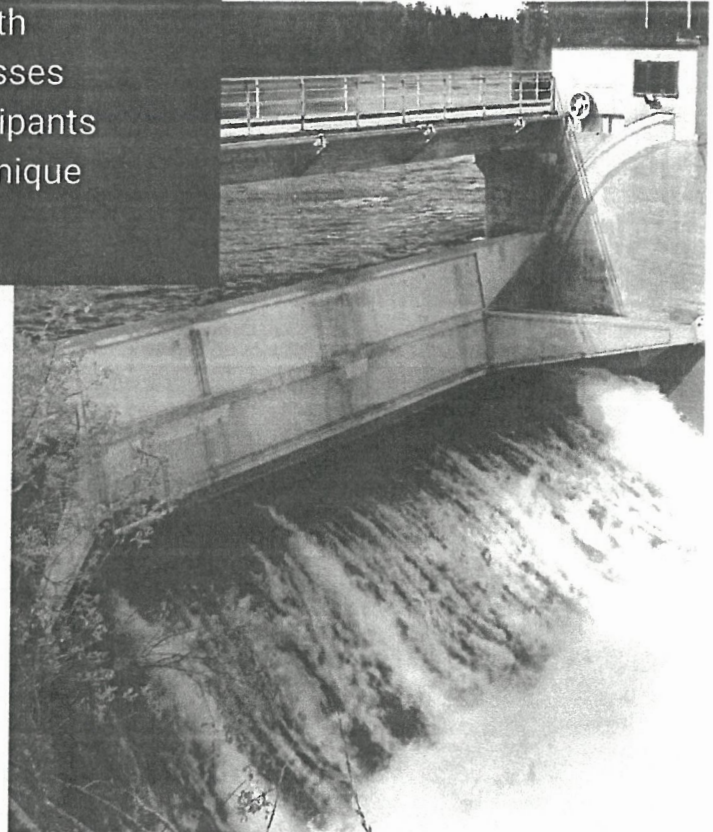
**Flexibility:** No long-term commitments required, making it ideal for businesses with evolving energy needs.

**Risk-Free:** Test the program without long-term commitments.

**Exclusive Opportunity:** Standby Hydro is the only program of its kind in the market offered by Freedom Energy.

### How Does it Work

- Participants pledge a certain amount of kWh to the program.
- Earn \$0.002 per kWh for pledged kWh when surplus generation occurs.
- Payments are made intermittently based on surplus generation, offering a flexible earning opportunity.



Contact us today to learn more about Standby Hydro and how it can benefit your business's energy strategy.



# **Guideline for the Safe Transportation of Pre-school Age Children in School Buses**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
February 1999

## **Introduction**

School age children transported in school buses are safer than children transported in motor vehicles of any other type. Large school buses provide protection because of their size and weight. Further, they must meet minimum Federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSSs) mandating compartmentalized seating, improved emergency exits, stronger roof structures and fuel systems, and better bus body joint strength.

As more pre-school age children are transported to school programs, often in school buses, the public is increasingly asking the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) about how to safely transport them. To help answer these questions, NHTSA conducted crash testing of pre-school age size dummies in school bus seats. The test results showed that pre-school age children in school buses are safest when transported in child safety restraint systems (CSRSs) that meets FMVSS 213, Child Restraint Systems, and are correctly attached to the seats.

Based on its research, NHTSA recommends pre-school age children transported in school buses always be transported in properly secured CSRSs. In partial response to questions from school (and child care) transportation offices, this Guideline seeks to assist school and other transportation managers in developing and implementing policies and procedures for the transportation of pre-school age children in school buses.

Note: The proper installation of CSRSs necessitates that a school bus seat have safety belts or other means of securing the CSRS to the seat. NHTSA recommends that lap belts or anchorages designed to meet FMVSS 225, Tether Anchorages and Child Restraint Anchorage Systems, be voluntarily installed to secure CSRSs in large school buses.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL BUSES**

When pre-school age children are transported in a school bus, NHTSA recommends these guidelines be followed:

- (1) Each child should be transported in a Child Safety Restraint System (suitable for the child's weight and age) that meets applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSSs).
- (2) Each child should be properly secured in the Child Safety Restraint System.

(3) The Child Safety Restraint System should be properly secured to the school bus seat, using anchorages that meet FMVSSs.

### **Child Safety Restraint System Defined**

A Child Safety Restraint System is any device (except a passenger system lap seat belt or lap/shoulder seat belt), designed for use in a motor vehicle to restrain, seat, or position a child who weighs less than 50 pounds.

### **Child Safety Restraint Systems Guideline**

#### **1. Child Safety Restraint System Specifications**

The provider of the CSRS should ensure:

Each pre-school age child to be transported has a CSRS appropriate for the child's weight, height, and age.

Each CSRS meets all applicable FMVSSs (look for the manufacturer's certification on the label attached to the system).

Each CSRS has been registered with the CSRS's manufacturer to facilitate any recalls the manufacturer might conduct.

If the CSRS is the subject of a recall, any necessary repairs or modifications have been made to the manufacturer's specifications.

Each CSRS is maintained as recommended by its manufacturer, including disposal of any CSRS that has been involved in a crash.

#### **2. Proper Securement**

The transportation provider should ensure:

The CSRS is used and secured correctly in the school bus.

Each child is secured in CSRSs according to manufacturer's instructions.

All CSRS attachment hardware and anchorage systems meet FMVSS 210, Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages or FMVSS 225, Tether Anchorages and Child Restraint Anchorage Systems.

School bus seats designated for CSRSs meet FMVSS 225, or include lap belts that meet FMVSS 209, Seat Belt Assemblies, and anchors that meet FMVSS 210 (designed to secure adult passengers or CSRS).

Personnel responsible for securing CSRSs onto school bus seats and children into CSRSs are properly trained and all personnel involved with CSRSs are provided up-to-date information and training.

When transported in the school bus, pre-school age children are supervised according to their developmental and functioning level.

### **3. School Bus Seats Designated for Child Safety Restraint Systems**

The transportation provider should ensure:

School-bus seats designated for CSRSs are located starting at the front of the vehicle to provide drivers with quick access to and a clear view of the CSRS occupants.

CSRS anchorages on school bus seats should meet all applicable FMVSSs.

When ordering new school buses, the maximum spacing specified under FMVSS No. 222, School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection, (within 24 inches from the seating reference point) is recommended for seats designated for CSRSs to provide adequate space for the CSRSs.

The combined width of CSRS and/or other passengers on a single seat does not exceed the width of the seat.

If other students share seats with the CSRSs, the CSRSs are placed in window seating position.

### **4. Retrofitting School Buses**

The transportation provider should ensure:

Existing school bus seats should only be retrofitted with lap belts or child restraint anchorages as instructed by the school bus manufacturer.

When a school bus is retrofitted with a seat to allow for proper securement of a CSRS, instructions obtained from the school bus or seat manufacturer on how to install the seat and restraint systems should be followed.

When a school bus is retrofitted, the bus owner should ensure that seat spacing is sufficient for the CSRS to be used.

### **5. Evacuation**

The transportation provider should ensure:

The establishment of a written plan on evacuating pre-school age children and other the school system's school-aged children.

All personnel involved in transporting children are trained in evacuation and emergency procedures, including those in the written school bus evacuation plan.

All school buses carrying children in CSRSs carry safety belt cutters that are accessible only to the driver and any monitors.

CSRSs are not placed in school bus seats adjacent to emergency exits.

Local emergency response teams are provided copies of the written school bus evacuation plan, including evacuation of pre-school age children. Emergency response personnel should be invited to participate in evacuation drills.

passengers in CSRSs in the event of an emergency. This written plan should be provided to drivers, monitors, and emergency response personnel. The plan should explicitly state how children (both in and out of the CSRS) should be evacuated from the school bus.

Evacuation drills are practiced on a scheduled basis, at least as often as that required for

## **6. Other Recommendations**

The school transportation provider should establish a policy on whether they or the child's guardian must supply a CSRS to be used on a school bus. school bus purchases should be based on the needs of a projected student population, taking into consideration projected ages, sizes, and other characteristics of the students, including any special needs, and whether pre-school age children or medically fragile students will be transported.

Specified procedures should be established for loading and unloading children in CSRSs.

Procedures should be established for the periodic maintenance, cleaning, and inspection for damage of CSRSs. Procedures should be established to train personnel involved in direct service delivery of infants, toddlers, and pre-school children on the physical day-to-day handling of these young children and means to handle potential exposure to contagious and communicable diseases.

When school bus procedures are established, it should be noted that some children in CSRSs may have special needs, including medical fragility, that must be addressed on a child-by-child basis.