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KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

KPBSD and First Student reach agreement

Soldotna, July 25, 2012—the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and First Student, a provider of student transportation, reached an agreement in principle, pending legal review, for student transportation beginning the first day of school, August 21, 2012.

Dr. Steve Atwater, superintendent of KPBSD schools said: “The district is pleased to reach a tentative agreement with First Student on a new five-year contract. We look forward to working with First Student to provide our students safe and timely transportation.”

The school district worked diligently to come to agreement with First Student on a five-year transportation contract to provide safe, reliable bus transit services for students. Our school district is 25,600 square miles, and every day school is in session, buses travel nearly 7,725 miles throughout the borough to transport students to and from school.

First Student will order new buses—approximately 80% of the fleet serving KPBSD—as soon as the contract is signed. They have assured the school district that all their internal processes and approvals are in place, so there will be no further delay. First Student indicates that the most recent production time for buses is 90 days, thus we estimate new buses will arrive within 120 days.

As school begins, the school district will be working with local law enforcement agencies to provide safety tips in order to ensure the well-being of students who walk and bike to school, who wait at bus stops, and during transport while buses and private vehicles share our roadways.

The five year negotiated contract is estimated at approximately \$7,590,700 for each of the five years of the contract (April 30, 2012 school board communication.) On May 7, 2012, the school board approved the financial portion of the contract. A final agreement with First Student took longer than expected due to the additional language conditions First Student brought forward on May 14, 2012. An RFP process does allow for negotiations of terms and conditions when submitted with an original proposal, which, in this case, was the February 17, 2012, RFP deadline.

KPBSD appreciates the valuable service local First Student bus drivers and aides provide. We anticipate a positive working relationship with First Student in order to deliver excellent service for our students.

To locate a KPBSD bus route, go to <http://bit.ly/BusStopSearch> or call 907.714.8824.

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-THREE DIVERSE SCHOOLS

ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK
PORT GRAHAM RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

FOR RELEASE JULY 25, 2012

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