

Innovations Academy Bus Purchase Request to Board

My proposal is to purchase a bus with a 70 student capacity minimum with storage underneath that is newer than a 2010. Currently, Innovations Academy owns two 2006 buses that seat 50 students each, with no additional storage. They were purchased from Horizon Christian School. The buses are 2006 Freightliner school buses. The reason I feel we need this change:

Cost for Regeneration

In 2010, California environmental laws changed the allowance for exhaust coming from buses. Our 2006 model buses were retrofitted with a regeneration system that would allow them to be compliant in California. When the new exhaust screens have collected a certain amount of emissions, a light goes on and we are required to “regenerate” them by plugging them into a high voltage plug. The previous owners and many districts have a high voltage plug installed in their lot. We do not have this plug at our site. In order to regenerate them, we must take them somewhere. The only ones we have found that will do this are Velocity Truck Centers in Mira Mesa. The cost to us has been: XXXXXX We have had to regenerate the buses more frequently than expected.

Size

Each IA classroom has approximately 21-25 students. It was anticipated that a 50 seater bus would typically accommodate all students in one grade level (2 classrooms of students). We quickly discovered that only small students fit 50 to a bus. Otherwise the seats are not big enough for students in grades 4 and above. Additionally, if students are to use the bus for an overnight, there is no storage room on our current bus.

Options:

- 1) Purchase the used bus. Risk: if the engine turns out to be not so good.
- 2) Purchase a new bus. See below
- 3) Lease a new bus
- 4) Keep what we have now and wait.

My goal this summer was to find a better bus. I have been looking but have only found one bus that matches our needs. It is a 76 seater, 2016 school bus (see specs attached) with underneath storage. It is fully California compliant and costs \$\$87,900. It was in a fleet that had been leased to Palmdale School District. I have been told by two people that the engine of this bus has had issues they have heard about (Hector, the mechanic that does our 45 day inspections and who is also the mechanic at Bishops School and a salesperson at Creative Bus Sales). The bus has a 3 year warranty on the engine.

Another option is to lease a new bus. See attachments A final option is to purchase a new bus: see attachments Current Buses

Creative Bus Sales is marketing our current buses. They estimate they can sell them for \$20,000-\$25,000 each but I haven't had any move forward on that sale.

