

**VOTER INFORMATION**  
**GREATER JOHNSTOWN BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
Johnstown Residents: High School Auditorium Lobby  
Ephratah Residents: Ephratah Fire Department

**Question:** Why is there another vote on July 16, 2009 when we just voted in May?

**Answer:** Two voter propositions from the May election need to be re-voted because the YES and NO levers on one machine in the high school lobby did not line up correctly with the YES and NO columns on the printed ballot. This error caused voters to express their concerns about the confusing situation and may have caused the defeat of the two proposals.

**Question:** What are the details of the two proposals?

**Answer:** Proposition #1 permits the District to lease the bus storage facility at Crescendoe Road through June 30, 2010, making the lease eligible for State aid. The cost for the one-year extension is unchanged \$97,715, which is offset largely by State aid. During the year, the Board of Education will develop and present to the voters a long-term plan.

Proposition #2 extends the lease for four school busses for four years. These buses are used for everyday student transportation to and from school. The cost for one of the three 66-passenger buses is \$12,000 and \$13,000 for the wheelchair bus, for a total of \$49,000 per year for each of the next four years. State aid offsets most of the cost.

**Question:** Why doesn't the District contract out with a private vendor for bus transportation?

**Answer:** The Board of Education cannot just turn over transportation services to a private vendor because the contract between the Board and the CSEA explicitly states that CSEA represents bus drivers. Any change could only come about through collective bargaining.

**Question.:** What plans have been studied?

**Answer:** As has been reported in the local news media, the District had explored locating its transportation facility at the County Maintenance Facility on Route 29. Upon a review of the site in terms of the area needed by the school, the County decided that their site could not house both operations without interfering with their operations. The District also received a proposal from Crossroads Incubator Corporation to purchase the current site at Crescendoe Road. An independent assessment by a firm engaged by the Board indicated that this would not be a cost-effective long-term solution.

**Question:** What are the possible options under investigation now?

**Answer:** A discussion is underway between Johnstown and Gloversville in consultation with State Education Department staff to evaluate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of some sort of sharing arrangement. Johnstown is also looking at district-owned property should a sharing arrangement not be feasible.