

## School board OKs RTS busing contract

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The Rochester school board voted early Friday morning to approve a \$45.4 million contract with Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority to bus high school students for the next four school years.

The approved contract settles a debate over secondary school transportation that has grown heated at times over the last year. RGRTA and the city of Rochester have complained about students fighting at the downtown Transit Center; in response, most student routes have been realigned so they do not transfer downtown.

The district and transportation authority signed a hastily negotiated one-year deal for 201516, but school board members felt its terms were extortionate and promised to seek more competition in the future. In the end, district Chief Financial Officer Bill Ansbro persuaded them that RGRTA's proposal, gathered last fall among others, was the best.

In the first year, the new deal represents a \$1.2 million savings over the current deal. The per-student rate escalates over the four years but still remains below both the current cost and the yellow bus cost for elementary schools.

School Board President Van White and Willa Powell voted against the contract when the decision was finally made nearly six hours into Thursday's board meeting.

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**The city school board voted to approve a \$45.4 million contract to bus students for the next four years.**

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