

For Immediate Release  
February 9, 2024

### Edgar Debuts Electric Bus

The latest addition to the Edgar School District's transportation fleet is large, yellow, super quiet and needs no gas.

Taking advantage of a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the District has opted to replace an aging diesel bus with a brand new electric bus. The District partnered with Fischer Transportation, Inc and Navistar (bus manufacturer) to apply for this grant, which covered the cost of the bus plus a charging station at the bus garage. This grant was only for rural school districts and also did not require any matching funds from the district. An additional "perk" included with the grant is that the bus will include free wi-fi for our students for the first year.

"Being able to save thousands of dollars to replace a bus and invest in an emerging "green" technology that offers health benefits to our students seemed to be a prudent decision," Guden said.

The District will save approximately \$5,000 a year by not buying diesel fuel for the bus. The bus, will travel up to 125 miles on a single charge. The batteries are warranted to last eight years. The electric bus also will reduce maintenance costs since there is no oil, air filters or spark plugs to change and no transmission to maintain.

In addition to lowering the District's carbon footprint and offering a more energy efficient way to transport students, the electric bus will offer health benefits by improving air quality and reducing noise. An additional heater was installed inside the bus to ensure that students would stay warm during the cold winter months.

In preparation for the bus' arrival, the charging station was installed and manufacturer representatives came out to ensure it was online and help set up an app to check charging status and other information. The charger will charge at off peak times to save electrical costs.

Navistar, the bus manufacturer also held an on site training for mechanics, a bus driver and representatives from Fischer's and local fire departments to go over the bus operation and other items.

***The District is inviting the community to see and ride the bus at a special event on Wednesday, February 21 beginning at 3:30pm. The bus will be parked in front of Edgar Elementary School. The bus will take a drive through Edgar at 5 p.m. and anyone who wishes to ride the bus is invited to come aboard at that time.***