

# *Herscher Community Unit School District No. 2*

DR. RICHARD S. DECMAN, SUPERINTENDENT  
SHELLY PARSONS, SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR  
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10/30/23

Herscher CUSD No. 2 School Community,

During the Summer and Fall of 2022, the Herscher School District worked with representatives from Lion Electric to apply for the Environmental Protection Act's "Clean School Bus Program Grant". In November of 2022, our school district was notified that we were being awarded \$9,875,000 for the purchase of (25) electric school buses and the related necessary infrastructure. As a result of this award, we ordered (25) air-conditioned, electric buses and began discussions about charging and other related needs for these buses.

Approximately one year later, we have scheduled the delivery of our first (2) buses from Lion Electric's Joliet plant later this week. Our plan is to rotate these (2) electric buses among the various regular school routes for the remainder of the school year. This plan will give our drivers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with these vehicles and our students the experience of riding in the electric buses as well.

In the meantime, the District is working with Johnson-Downs Construction Company to build a new bus facility at our Herscher location that will house approximately half of the future electric buses that are scheduled to be delivered in the late summer of 2024. The other half of the electric buses will be housed at our Limestone bus garage. Further, we are coordinating the completion of the new bus facility in Herscher with the delivery of the (23) additional electric buses this upcoming summer. So, it is our intention to have the infrastructure ready at both the Herscher and Limestone locations which will allow us to charge all (25) electric buses for the start of the 24-25 school year.

Finally, with any new endeavor, we anticipate there will be many challenges and obstacles that we will need to overcome. Despite these challenges, we are extremely excited about "leading the way" for other districts in providing a comfortable riding experience for our students while reducing transportation costs for our school district. As always, thank you in advance for your ongoing commitment to making Herscher CUSD No. 2 one of the best Districts in the State. GO TIGERS!

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard S. Decman, Superintendent

*"Education... The Ultimate Investment."*