



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

This serves as an update to my letters of September 12th and 15th regarding a situation with our bus vendor. In short, due to newly-implemented, more stringent, driver criteria for obtaining and/or maintaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), there is a shortage of bus drivers causing a supply and demand issue. While we have maintained our *over 2-mile*, obligatory bus service (as well as our subscription bus service) to and from school, the bus company with whom we have contracted for many years indicated that they were unable to honor contracts for *extra-curricular* obligations.

Since September, we have contacted **32** bus companies to see if they were available to pick up our after-school sports activities. They all declined. We then contacted the Educational Services Commission of NJ who went out to bid twice and we were still unable to secure a bus vendor.

As noted in my last letter, while providing transportation for our "away" sports games was our immediate challenge, we also learned that this was a broad-based issue that could impact all additional bus contracts such as local field trips (i.e. 4th grade trip), and possibly other extra-curricular trips. Bus companies simply ***do not*** have availability during the day. We contacted a charter bus company to price the 4th grade trip to the Manasquan Reservoir. Last year, bussing cost \$1,030 - this year, our first quote is \$3,900.

At this point, I am officially informing parents that there will be no district-provided transportation for any after-school sporting activities. We will continue to utilize parent transportation as we have for Soccer and Cross Country. As for daytime field trips, we will continue to explore options, but we will likely be faced with two choices: parent transportation and/or additional cost to parents to absorb the difference in what was budgeted.

Again, there will be no transportation for after school extra-curricular events for the 2016-17 school year. Please note: the 7th grade Camp Bernie trip and the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip already utilize charter busses and, therefore, will proceed as scheduled. I will continue to keep parents informed about field trips should your child be affected.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools