



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Monday (September 12th) I sent a letter to 6th-8th grade parents regarding a situation with our bus vendor. I promised to provide updated information as it became available. To briefly recap, on Thursday, September 8th, the bus company with whom we have contracted for many years indicated that they were unable to honor contracts for **extra-curricular** obligations. While providing transportation for our “away” soccer games was our immediate challenge, we also learned that the inability to provide *after school* transportation was a broad-based issue that could impact all after-school sporting transportation for the year, local field trips (i.e. 4th grade trip), and possibly other extra-curricular trips. As I indicated in my last letter, this issue could have a ripple effect and impact many children (and families) as the year progresses.

On Monday, I asked parents to coordinate carpools to transport soccer teams to away games as we continued to work on resolving this challenge. Over the past three days we have immersed ourselves in trying to learn more about what precipitated this issue as well as develop an appropriate resolve.

Many New Jersey School districts are experiencing the same challenge. The most significant factor causing the supply issue is that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration -FMCSA (which is part of the US Department of Transportation) has newly-implemented, more stringent, driver criteria for obtaining and/or maintaining a Commercial Driver’s License- CDL. The pre-trip inspection is more rigorous than in the past, causing a much higher failure rate for those individuals seeking their CDL.

Therefore, supply and demand is our issue. After reaching out to other Monmouth County districts to try to coordinate bus services to no avail, we contacted thirty-one (31) bus companies. Twenty-eight (28) of them have indicated that they cannot help us. Three (3) of them are examining their current routes and will get back to us.

We are remaining optimistic that one of the three companies will be able to help us, but we are also realistic that this is a state-wide issue which, sadly, may not be resolved this year.

As always, I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools