
From: Dee Ann Radcliffe
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Transportation Black Out Weeks

Dear Members of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,

I would like to thank you for volunteering for this role in these dynamic and challenging times. I am a parent of 3 children who attend Washoe County Schools - Verdi Elementary, Billingshurst Middle School and McQueen High School. I am writing you to ask for consideration of all ideas to eliminate the Transportation Black Out Weeks. Our second Black Out week will be starting on April 11th and to say that it is crazy to get all 3 children to and from school each day would be an understatement. As you are likely aware, many schools are located in quiet neighborhoods and were never intended to have every parent drop-off and pick-up students (Verdi is a great example of this) and the neighborhoods are simply overwhelmed. For children that are not able to be taken to school, having a packet for them to complete seems like an educational failure at this moment in time.

I would like to provide kudos to Mr. Mattick and Billingshurst for allowing students to complete an array of activities during the Black Out weeks and be picked up later than 2 pm. This was an amazing gift to parents.

Kudos too to Verdi Elementary staff for having a wonderfully simple drop-off procedure in the parking lot. They wore costumes, danced and were SO welcoming!

Ideas to recruit AND retain Bus Drivers:

Increasing the salary - due to the great need for workers, billboards advertise \$18 for Housekeepers! Bus drivers are critical for students who live outside of walk zones.

Monetary bonuses for sign-on, longevity and for completing x number of weeks!

Charging parents for bus passes for their children to ride (this was done in Plumas County, CA approximately 8 to 10 years ago).

Volunteer on a bus - these people would have to complete screening etc, but I think that it would encourage better behavior by the students. The Las Vegas school district is putting Dad's in Schools to help support good behavior.

Is flexible scheduling already in place - i.e. are some bus drivers part-time? Are there per diem (as needed) bus driver positions?

Campaign for the important role that Bus Drivers have in Education - students/parents could show appreciation!

Thank you again for all that you do!

Sincerely,
Dee Ann Radcliffe