



Volume 9: Tuesday, October 9, 2018

*“The safety of our students, and the support of the dedicated employees who daily serve to provide them with a superior education, are top priorities for our district. To that end, we are firmly committed to addressing your concerns and ensuring proper compensation, benefits, working conditions, and growth opportunities for our Transportation teammates.” – Dr. R. Stephen Green, Superintendent*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

As of this writing, 58 concerns have been shared with Superintendent Green and Interim COO Daniel E. Drake regarding the Transportation Department. Each concern has been documented, and the Superintendent, sub-committee, and district staff members are working collaboratively to address each one. To date, thirty one (31) concerns have been addressed, nineteen (19) are currently in process to be addressed, and eight (8) remain to be discussed in greater detail. The following concerns and requests for updates were discussed during our meetings on September 26, 2018 and October 3, 2018. Some concerns will require time to research; however, all concerns will be addressed in future meetings and newsletters.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT RELATIONS:**

**Request:** Please provide an update regarding PBIS as it relates to ridership behavioral concerns.

**Update:** As presented to the committee by Dr. Vasanne Tinsley, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support and Intervention, the Department of Student Relations in conjunction with the Transportation Department will provide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) training to drivers and monitors this month – beginning October 15, 2018. This training is in direct response to driver and monitor concerns regarding student behavior while waiting for the bus, entering the bus, riding the bus, exiting the bus, and/or evacuating the bus during emergencies. Topics and materials will include: bus expectations and procedures; major and minor bus behaviors; a behavior flow chart; and general discipline procedures to be followed when a violation is committed and a referral is written.

Additionally, all drivers/monitors will learn about: details of the PBIS Program; the rationale for implementing PBIS; the critical elements of PBIS; and acknowledgements that should be given to students when they are following the rules. Further, drivers/monitors will be given an opportunity to both reflect on what they have learned and ask clarifying questions. Finally, we will also discuss next steps and/or actions that should be taken in order to ensure that PBIS is implemented with fidelity on all buses.

Training dates, times, and locations are as follows:

REGIO N	MANAGER	TS#	CLUSTER	Date	Location	Time
5	Sanders	120	Miller Grove	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
3	Sanders	121	Lithonia	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
C2	Mills	122	Shuttle/Satellite	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
7	Phillips	125	McNair	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
7	Phillips	126	Cedar Grove	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
5	Sanders	127	MLK/SWD	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
6	Phillips	128	Towers/Columbia	15-Oct	MLK Jr HS	10:00 AM
2	Brown	131	Tucker	16-Oct	Clarkston HS	10:00 AM
2	Brown	132	Lakeside	16-Oct	Clarkston HS	10:00 AM
2	Brown	133	Druid Hills	16-Oct	Clarkston HS	10:00 AM
3	Guillory	144	Stephenson/Redan	16-Oct	Clarkston HS	10:00 AM
4	Guillory	148	Stone Mtn/Clarkston	16-Oct	Clarkston HS	10:00 AM
C1	Martinez	160	M.Harris,C.Wood, D.Hills	30-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
C1	Martinez	161	Stone Mtn/Clarkston-SN	30-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
C1	Martinez	165	Dunwoody, Chamblee, Cross Keys, W. Tech	30-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
C1	Martinez	166	Lakeside, Tucker	30-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
C2	Mills	162	Special Needs S East	31-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
C2	Mills	164	C. Grove,	31-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
C2	Mills	167	Columbia, Towers	31-Oct	AIC	10:00 AM
1	Lewis	129	Cross Keys	26-Oct	Chamblee HS	10:00 AM
1	Lewis	141	Chamblee/Dunwoody	26-Oct	Chamblee HS	10:00 AM

## FLEET AND SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS:

**Request:** Please provide a detailed overview of the process for monthly bus inspections. Please include specifics regarding the “red tag” and “orange tag” process.

**Update:** As presented to the committee by the District’s Director of Fleet and Special Needs Transportation, Mr. Cedric A. Burse, all school buses are required to be inspected once every month. Our District has contracted this process to a third-party inspector. Buses are inspected on a 20-day cycle during evening hours to avoid negatively impacting daily transportation operations.

When a bus is inspected and a defect is identified, the inspector will place a red or orange tag on the interior of the window, directly in the sight of the driver. **The color of the tag identifies the severity of the defect as follows:**

- **Red Tag** – A red tag identifies maintenance defects that require immediate attention. Red-tagged buses are deemed out-of-service (OOS) until a fleet mechanic has either repaired the defect or cleared the bus to operate for a very specific time frame – no more than 3-4 hours. If the defect impacts the safety of the school bus, the bus will be disabled – thereby preventing it from being started/used.
- **Orange Tag** – An orange tag identifies minor maintenance defects. When a bus is marked with an orange tag, Supervisors are to schedule the necessary repair service through Fleet.

### **Please Note:**

- Supervisors cannot direct a driver to operate a red-tagged bus. Only a mechanic or technician may authorize the operation of a red-tagged bus.
- When a school bus misses its monthly inspection, the driver must bring the bus to the missed inspection makeup day.
- If the bus misses the makeup inspection, the bus is placed in an OOS status and must be brought to Fleet.

**Request:** Please provide information regarding plans for this year’s National School Bus Safety Week/School Bus Driver Appreciation Week.

### **Update:**

National School Bus Safety Week is celebrated during the week of October 22 - 26, 2018. The theme this year is “My School Bus, The Safest Form of Student Transportation!”

The District will be hosting a special event at Stone Mountain Middle School at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 22, 2018 in collaboration with Georgia Commute Schools. Dr. Green will join students in discussing safety tips and honoring drivers.

Additionally, in collaboration with Georgia United Credit Union and the Superintendent's Office, we will be celebrating drivers on Wednesday, October 24 with breakfast sandwiches and juice (first thing in the morning) at three locations: (1) AIC - 1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd. Stone Mountain, GA 30083, (2) Panthersville - 2817 Clifton Springs Rd. Decatur, GA 30034, and (3) Doraville - 3932 Flowers Rd. Doraville, GA 30360.

