

Transportation Update



Montgomery Township School District
October 16, 2018

Agenda

- Purpose
- Findings - Internal Investigation
- What We've Done
- Action Plan
- September 2019
- Current Transportation System



Purpose of Transportation Update



To communicate the immediate and long-term actions the district is implementing to improve the transportation department.

Findings - Internal Investigation

- Orientation
 - Lack of parent orientation program to familiarize parents with critical aspects of bus transportation
 - Need to provide students with additional bus safety training and expectations at start of school year



Findings - Internal Investigation



- Communication
 - External
 - Need for improved timely contact with parents relative to changes in bus times or schedules
 - Electronic communication to parents varied by school
 - Internal
 - Insufficient staffing of transportation telephones
 - Inconsistent internal communication between departments, buildings and drivers

Findings - Internal Investigation



- Training
 - Need for more specific guidelines for drivers
 - Need for additional documentation of driver familiarity with routes
- Infrastructure
 - Inadequate staffing
- Technology
 - Need to upgrade system with more current and efficient technology

What We've Done

- Meetings
 - Staff meeting with Superintendent, Business Administrator, Principals from OHES and VES and Transportation to discuss events of 9/6/18
 - District Safety Team meeting
 - Meetings with all drivers to review expectations
 - Meeting with bus driver association leadership
 - Parent meeting



What We've Done

- Research
 - Consulted with other districts
 - Reviewed transportation best practices
 - Continued comprehensive review of all board transportation policies to improve services
 - Contacted outside transportation audit consultant
- Investigations
 - Superintendent internal investigation
 - Engaged board attorney to conduct transportation investigation



Action Plan

- Orientation
 - Based on input from stakeholders, develop plan for September
- Communication
 - External
 - Established consistent, clear, communication based upon parental contact options in Genesis
 - Attendance taken on OHES and VES buses
 - Solicited and responded to parent concerns
 - Establish plan to create a parent advisory group



Action Plan

- Communication
 - Internal
 - Added staffing for answering phones
 - Assigned additional responsibilities to current staffing
 - Verified cell phone numbers of all drivers
- Training
 - Increased hours for driver staff development
 - Provided out of district workshops for transportation supervisors



Action Plan

- Infrastructure
 - Increased staffing in the Transportation Department
 - Categorized and expanded administrative oversight
 - Initiated mandatory driver check-in
 - Established contractor responsibility to communicate notification of substitute drivers



Action Plan

- Technology
 - Researched four companies for transportation software
 - Proposed March 2019
 - GPS hardware and software on all buses
 - Proposed September 2019
 - Upgrade transportation mapping software
 - Expand GPS use for child attendance
 - Introduce GPS navigational tablets



September 2019



- Mandated contractor driver meetings with district staff taking dry run with contracted staff
- Early communication to parents regarding bus times and possible delays the first weeks of school
- Expand kindergarten orientation to include segment on transportation
- Welcome back video and brochure
- Staff member on K-4 buses first days of school
- More student friendly bus identification and bus passes

Current Transportation System



- Triple Tier Busing
 - State mandates for efficient busing formula
 - 2010-11 Budget
- Statistics (Approximate)
 - 4,800 students
 - 50 buses
 - 150 routes
 - 1,150 stops
 - 61 drivers
 - 9 bus aides

Current Transportation System



- Considerations
 - Cell coverage throughout Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill
 - Driver shortage



Thank you!