



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 19, 2017

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

This communication is being provided as an update to the unfortunate bus accident of January 6, 2017 involving a vehicle transporting students to the Reggio Magnet School.

First and foremost, I want to recognize the extraordinary cooperation provided while I was conducting my independent review of the accident by the staff of Specialty Transportation, more specifically, Terminal Manager Kim Bush, and Safety Consultant Heather Smith. They were exceptionally professional and provided to Myles Altimus, the District Director of Operations, all requested appropriate records for our inspection in a timely manner.

We learned the bus was being driven by a substitute driver who was properly credentialed. He had been driving Reggio Magnet School students temporarily and at times he was asked to fill in for bus runs driving our own students to and from the Avon Public Schools. The specifics of how the accident occurred have been reviewed by Specialty Transportation and the Avon Police Department.

Specialty Transportation has informed me that the driver is no longer an employee with them due to undisclosed reasons. As you know, this type of information is not generally available to the public and I am simply reporting facts as they were made known to me. I have also confirmed that the driver received no citation for any motor vehicle violation.

Additionally, I have reviewed all the required bus inspections of every bus being used by Specialty Transportation and am able to confirm they meet the requirements pursuant to state law and Specialty Transportation policies. Contrary to what was reported by Channel 3 during the morning hours immediately following the accident, the bus involved in the January 6th accident had no inspection deficiencies.

Your patience was appreciated as the district reviewed this matter leading to the issuance of this message.

Again, decisions related to weather concerns are made only after considerable deliberations with a local meteorologist who is retained by the district, the Town of Avon Public Works and fourteen of my colleagues of surrounding school districts.

Please know that I place the well-being of our students and staff at the highest level and will do my utmost in ensuring all arrive to and from school only when conditions are safe.

I remain very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

Gary S. Mala
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