



March 22, 2017

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

It is with much sadness that I provide additional information to the email you received this morning regarding the bus accident in Avon.

We have been informed the Specialty Transportation driver of bus 22 was tragically involved in an uncontrolled act of nature and died at the scene. The name of the bus driver has not been released due to the wishes of his wife. As stated in the earlier message, no children were on the bus at the time of the accident.

In anticipation that some students and/or families may need support to have appropriate conversations around this issue, we have made available at all our schools pupil services staff for anyone needing support or guidance. Attached to this letter are resources that you may find informative in helping children deal with grief. Additionally, the district is providing staff trained in grief counseling to Specialty Transportation employees during this especially difficult time.

I've included below a statement issued by Specialty Transportation:

"It is a sad day at Specialty Transportation with the passing of one of our School Bus drivers. We ask that your thoughts and prayers are with the driver's family during this difficult time. The driver was part of our corporate family and was an exceptional employee who was well respected both by the company and the entire community he served. I'd like to thank the Town of Avon's Board of Education for coordinating grief counseling for our employees that have been adversely affected by this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, our employees and the students and teachers of Avon that have tragically lost an exceptional individual."

*Thank you,
Michael Turner
Vice President
Specialty Transportation, Inc.*

Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days.

Respectfully,

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

Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools Avon Public Schools
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