



Newfane Central School District

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Michael J. Baumann
Superintendent of Schools

"Together We Can"

August 30, 2018

Dear Parents:

It has been brought to my attention that there is some confusion regarding changes to elementary busing.

- There will be no changes to the use of bus aides on special education or Pre-K bus runs.
- There will be four bus aides assigned to the regular elementary bus runs. They will rotate amongst the runs each day.
- Ridge Road has had cameras on many of their buses for years. They have decided to add cameras to the buses that don't currently have them, as encouraged by New York State. With or without aides, the cameras would have been added.
- The transportation contract between Student Transportation of America (Ridge Road) and the District was rebid this past year. The cost of transportation services increased significantly, going up nearly 50%. The change in the number of aides assigned to elementary bus runs is an effort to mitigate those increases.
- The district engaged a transportation consultant to help us review our transportation program for cost savings. He specifically pointed out that Newfane was the only district using bus aides on all regular bus runs. Most districts only use aides where mandated by special education needs of the students.
- There was no "board vote" to eliminate bus aides; but the district transportation budget was developed with the intent of reducing aides on the elementary bus runs from 14 to 4.

The bottom line is that having a bus aide on every single elementary bus run was a luxury we could afford in past years. With the significant increase in transportation costs, we can no longer afford this luxury.

I have every confidence that the bus driver's employed by Ridge Road are exceptionally well trained and absolutely capable of keeping our children safe, with or without an aide on board.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Baumann
Superintendent of Schools