April 12, 2021

Dear Bulldog Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for your support and patience as we welcomed our Bulldogs back to school today! It was a privilege to visit classrooms today in both schools and to see so many of our students back learning together, where they thrive.

As some of you and your children experienced today, our District’s transportation company, First Student, is undergoing a shortage of available bus drivers due to COVID-19 quarantines. Some of these quarantines occurred beginning this past weekend, and no amount of planning or preparation from the District or First Student could have prevented that shortage. As a result of that shortage of drivers, some bus routes had to be combined over the weekend, and substitute drivers assigned to routes that they had not previously driven. That combination of new bus routes and a scarcity of bus drivers has resulted in some delays in the bus system, impacts on the availability of busing for some afterschool activities including Athletics, and some parents being asked to transport their child(ren) to school. We apologize for all of these unexpected and unavoidable situations.

The good news is that we anticipate that these issues will be very short-term, as First Student anticipates having more drivers return to work by early next week.

We continue to ask for your patience and support as we deal with the numerous challenges involved in returning all students to school during this COVID-19 period, with its required restrictions.

I would like to thank Transportation Secretary Jessica Franke and Cathy Mele from First Student Transportation who spent numerous hours this past weekend in order to ensure that all students received bus transportation today, despite the driver shortage.

Overall, it was a great day in our classrooms and our schools, Bulldogs! Thank you for your support of our students and our schools.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen A. Walker
Superintendent of Schools

“…enriching the lives of all students”