



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

October 25, 2019

Dear Pearl River School Community,

During the past few weeks, our school district has experienced significant issues with our transportation vendor in which bus drivers have missed stops and, in two cases, drivers could not find a destination.

On Monday, October 21, our swim team was significantly delayed and was forced to forfeit a match because the Chestnut Ridge Transportation driver became lost. Last night, October 24, the swim team had a meet in Ardsley. A different Chestnut Ridge driver had problems finding his way back to Pearl River from the event. This driver made a serious error that had potentially grave consequences as he entered the Sprain Brook Parkway. Coaches aboard the bus were compelled to contact police, who provided an escort for the bus to get off the Parkway.

These are two examples of unacceptable situations that have recently taken place. The safety of our students is and always will be our top priority. Situations like these cause students to become upset and anxious and will not be tolerated.

We have been in contact with Chestnut Ridge officials following each of these incidents and have also spoken to the company's Executive Vice-President, Regional Vice-President of Operations, and the Operations Manager to discuss these matters. I have been assured that the drivers that were involved in these incidents will not be driving busses assigned to Pearl River and will undergo retraining.

In a written communication to me from Chestnut Ridge's Executive Vice-President, Timothy Flood, Chestnut Ridge Transportation is scheduling a meeting with all Pearl River bus drivers to "discuss the importance of following proper procedures and the communication that needs to take place daily to ensure safe transportation of all the students we transport." In addition, they will be reviewing the proper procedures for obtaining directions including confirming the destination address. Our Coordinator of School Transportation will be attending this meeting.

Please be assured that this matter has my serious attention. I am confident that Chestnut Ridge Transportation values our 30+ year relationship and will do what is needed to ensure that our students are transported safely and timely in all situations. We will expect nothing less.

Sincerely,