

Colon Community Schools

400 Dallas Street
Colon, Michigan 49040
269-432-3231



Home of the Magi

August 3, 2017

Dear Colon Community School Parents,

Channel 3 aired a report on Tuesday evening, August 1, regarding a bus incident that happened in our district in April of 2017. The segment included some inaccurate information. The following is an accurate statement of what transpired regarding the incident. Also, Colon Schools was not contacted by Channel 3 as reported.

In April, The Colon Community School Board and administration became aware of an incident on one of our school buses which alleged inappropriate touching of a young student by another early elementary student. The board and administration have cooperated fully with local law enforcement in the investigation of this incident and have provided the evidence in the district's possession. We reviewed and made changes to our protocols to insure the safety of all of our students at all times. No criminal charges were filed against the student.

On April 27th, a letter was sent home to the parents of all students who ride a Colon School bus informing them that inappropriate behaviors have occurred and they were provided information on reporting to the transportation supervisor or superintendent, any inappropriate bus behaviors.

In early May our transportation supervisor and superintendent met with Dean Transportation's Regional Operations Manager to review our procedures. The following changes were implemented as of May 10th: students are now separated male/female, in addition to separation by age with younger students sitting in the front of the bus. Additional video cameras have been added to every bus to insure all seats were fully monitored by video coverage. Additional reporting procedures were put into place for bus drivers, and all drivers have been re-trained in the protocols and procedures for handling student discipline issues.

We take this situation very seriously as the safety of our students is extremely important to us. The bus driver was terminated by Dean Transportation at the time of the allegation. Criminal charges were filed against the driver for failing to report the allegations. We will continue to work with Dean Transportation and local law enforcement to insure the safety of all of our students. Under all circumstances, the district's actions must be consistent with state and federal laws and due process for those students involved.

Ginny Kowalski, Interim Superintendent

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