

ACE-AFSCME

Message from Your Local 2250 Field Rep

Local 2250, AFL-CIO

March 25, 2009

MEMO TO: Transportation Employees
FROM: Angela Thomas, Field Staff Representative
RE: Transportation Symposium - **YOU DID IT!!**

On March 19th Transportation employees met with School Board Members Patricia Fletcher and Rosalind Johnson; Board Officials Dr. William Hite, Superintendent, Lawrence Fryer, Chief Administrator for Supporting Services, and Michael Dodson, Director of Transportation; and Union Officials Faith Jones, President and Richard Putney, Executive Director, to bring attention to the behavior problems on the buses.

Transportation employees gave heart wrenching and dramatic commentaries of experiences on the buses and at the schools. They told how they are disrespected, ignored, threatened, assaulted and abused in every sense of the word.

Board officials were very attentive and enlightened with the information from the employees. They gave everyone there a guarantee that there would be immediate changes and actions taken on the complaints. A committee will be formed with the board members and transportation to implement procedures and design rules.

Listed are a few of the important issues acknowledged as a result of the meeting:

1. Transportation will speak at all back to school nights.
2. Union representatives and board members will review and write policies on transportation referrals and the superintendent will ensure it is enforced.
3. Within one week there will be a clear administrative procedure on returning students to school after disruptive behavior.
4. Transportation will provide each school with the time of the first pick up in the AM and the last drop off after dismissal. Each school will provide transportation with a number for the dispatcher that will be answered by an administrator and not an answering machine.
5. There will be a meeting with the parents, drivers and attendants. This can also be part of our School Board goes to the community meetings as well.
6. No special education bus will leave the lots without a bus attendant and the driver will not be directed to do so.
7. Cameras need to be on all buses.

We thank all the Transportation Employees for their professionalism and the information they have brought to light. Together we can make a difference.