MEDIA REQUESTOR: Killeen Daily Herald, Hunter King, September 5, 2019

Hi Taina, we have received two complaints from parents of elementary school students that their kids' bus is delayed daily and they are getting home late. I have some questions for a story if you could get me what you can today. Thank you.

How many bus drivers is KISD currently short?

How many total drivers does the district have?

How many routes do the buses drive in the morning and afternoon?

How many drivers does the have in the morning and afternoon?

Have any drivers quit since the school year started? How many?

How many KISD students ride the bus?

How many are in elementary school? middle school? high school?

How do you track bus delays?

How many times has a bus been delayed and on which routes?

How do you notify parents of delays?

How do you track drivers to make sure they are on schedule and on their routes?

What happens if a late bus makes a kid miss breakfast? Does the child go hungry or does the district make sure the student is fed.

What is the problem?

When will it be fixed?

Do you plan to meet with parents?

DISTRICT RESPONSE:
On Thu, Sep 5, 2019 at 11:09 AM Maya, Taina M <Taina.Maya@killeenisd.org> wrote:
Hunter, I saw your article online, I would encourage you to look at things from a different point of view. Of the 20,000+ students eligible to ride a bus you’ve only received two complaints regarding delays that lasted beyond the first week of school. The district, as we stated earlier, normally experiences delays in the first few days/weeks. While there is always room for improvement the vast majority of issues we encountered last week have been resolved. We are always working to streamline our efforts across the district.
Here are the answers I’ve gathered thus far.

We have 264 routes that run in the morning and afternoon.

Currently 21,073 students are eligible to ride the bus although this can change daily depending on enrollment.

We do not classify eligible students per elementary, middle and high schools. If you’d like us to research this more, we will need 3-5 days. Please let me know if you want me to proceed or if the overall eligibility number above is sufficient.

We track drivers and delays through SamSara GPS.

Students will have access to breakfast meal items when buses are running late.

As to your request of “How many times has a bus been delayed and on which routes” we do not have documents or a means to track that data electronically.

The issue we are facing is being felt across the Nation, to put it simply, there is a shortage of bus drivers. Until the district is at full staff (bus drivers) we anticipate having these issues to some degree.

*We would hope you can encourage anyone who wants to apply go to our website as we are actively hiring for a variety of bus positions - both full and part time.

At this time we do not plan to meet with parents as pick-up and drop-off times have drastically improved since the first day of school.

How much money was budgeted for bus drivers this year and last year?

We only have a budget for ALL auxiliary employees, it is not broken out into different job positions. So the line item in the budget would include transportation, secretaries, clerks, dispatchers, mechanics, bus monitors, foreman positions etc...

Also I need clarification before we can pull that budget number for you- are you wanting only the base salary amounts? Or are you wanting everything to include any additional pays (i.e., longevity) and all employer related “benefit” expenses (i.e., TRS, workers comp, life/dental/medical insurance)?

We will not know the amount of money that was used last year until our audit is near completion which will be in the December timeframe.

Thank you for the response. We are currently working on more questions that will be sent to you today. Whatever can be received today and returned to us would be great.

Thank you so much.