MEDIA REQUESTOR: Killeen Daily Herald, Lauren Dodd, March 23, 2021
DISTRICT RESPONSES IN BLUE

From: Maya, Taina M
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Lauren Dodd <ldodd@kdhnews.com>
Cc: jbrooks@kdhnews.com; KDH <news@kdhnews.com>; Public Information <PublicInformation@killeenisd.org>
Subject: RE: KISD Bus Driver Story

Lauren,

These are document requests so I am going to forward this to our Public Information email so it can be processed accordingly.

Taina Maya
Chief Communications & Marketing Officer
Killeen Independent School District
Taina.Maya@killeenisd.org
o (254) 336-0174
c (210) 264-7062

From: Lauren Dodd <ldodd@kdhnews.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Maya, Taina M <Taina.Maya@killeenisd.org>
Cc: jbrooks@kdhnews.com; KDH <news@kdhnews.com>
Subject: Re: KISD Bus Driver Story

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Taina, I realize you’re still working on part of this initial transportation request. We have a few more transportation questions we are hoping you could answer so we can better understand the bus driver turnover rate at KISD. My deadline for this is Friday at 10 a.m.

1. How many bus drivers have been hired during the 2020-2021 school year?
2. How many bus drivers quit during the 2020-2021 school year?
3. How many bus drivers were fired during the 2020-2021 school year?
4. How many bus drivers were hired, terminated, or quit during the 2019-2020 and 2018-2019 school years?
5. How many total filled bus driver positions does KISD have at this time?

Thanks,
Lauren Dodd
Killeen Daily Herald
O: 254-501-7567
C: 830-360-0715
Lauren,

Some of the information you requested earlier this morning is not readily available and takes time to compile. While I don’t have all of the information below is a partial response for your story.

This school year KISD decreased the total number of routes by 50 due to parents opting for their students to learn virtually, equating to a decrease of eligible riders. We currently have 71 vacant bus driver positions, however due to virtual learners we only have 25 vacant routes. In the event 100% of KISD students returned in-person and all eligible riders utilized KISD transportation, we would then need those vacant positions to be filled but at our current low ridership we have worked to make routes more efficient by combining route within the same vicinity.

School buses are made and advertised to seat three elementary students per seat, so the allegation of buses being overcrowded is not true. Furthermore, the district requires all students and staff on buses to wear a face covering while on the school bus to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing is encouraged to the greatest extent possible across the entire district.

Drivers work a split shift day, any additional trip they elect to pick up between their shift would be their decision.

I will send you the additional information when I receive it.

Taina Maya
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Full disclosure: I have two bus drivers who went on the record yesterday saying KISD is short 100+ bus drivers. A current bus driver said drivers are doubling up on routes to make do, elementary students are sitting three to a seat, drivers are forgoing their breaks to run all the routes that need to be run, and drivers are being lost to Belton ISD because they pay a few dollars more. I want to give KISD a chance to address these accusations - I'm sure the pandemic hasn't helped matters.

Just a few follow-up questions: Does KISD have multiple drivers per bus route? How many vacant KISD bus driver positions exist currently? And how many bus drivers are currently employed with the district?

Anything you can say on the record is greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance.

Lauren Dodd
Killeen Daily Herald
O: 254-501-7567
C: 830-360-0715

On Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 5:35 PM Maya, Taina M <Taina.Maya@killeenisd.org> wrote:

Lauren,

This year the Transportation department has worked extremely hard to consolidate routes across the district thus maximizing our ability to transport students to and from school across all tiers in a timely manner. There are currently 25 vacant routes that we are working fill.
Here is a flyer we created that has additional recruitment information for bus drivers that we have used on social media and virtual job fairs:
https://www.killeenisd.org/webdata/documentviewer/files/We%27re%20Hiring%20Bus%20Drivers.pdf

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