

From: Ryan Readings <rreadings@mybigyellowbus.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:33 AM
To: Sara Henshaw <SHenshaw@thamescentre.on.ca>
Cc: Marc Bancroft <MBancroft@thamescentre.on.ca>
Subject: RE: Thames Centre - Local School Advisory Committee Resolution

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Hi Sara,

Thank you for reaching out. In lieu of attending I am able to provide you with some information related to the bus driver situation in our service area. Firstly, bus drivers are employed by the contracted bus companies. They are not employees of Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services.

Currently we have 1108 bus routes that are scheduled to operate on a daily basis. We cancel anywhere from 0-8 daily which represents far less than 1% of our total number of bus routes. We do acknowledge that some buses are running late. This is done in an effort to provide transportation instead of cancelling altogether. On occasion when a bus driver is done their regular scheduled bus route they then double back to operate a second route at a later time to ensure students are able to get to school. We understand that this is less than ideal and appreciate the patience that schools and parents have shown as we work through this situation.

Our contracted bus companies continue to recruit bus drivers. Based on driver numbers from last week I can confirm that there are approximately 40 drivers in various stages of training and will be assigned a bus run on a permanent basis in the near future. Unfortunately the issue of driver shortages continues to be impacted by last minute book offs due to illness, appointments and leaves of absences.

If there are any specific questions I would be pleased to answer.

Thank you

Ryan Readings
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From: Sara Henshaw <SHenshaw@thamescentre.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Ryan Readings <rreadings@mybigyellowbus.ca>

Cc: Marc Bancroft <MBancroft@thamescentre.on.ca>

Subject: Thames Centre - Local School Advisory Committee Resolution

Good morning Mr. Readings,

I wish to advise that at its regular meeting held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m., the Municipality of Thames Centre's Local School Advisory Committee passed the following resolution:

Moved by: K. Empey

Second by: K. Hallman

(Resolution: LSAC-15-2023)

THAT staff be directed to contact a representative from the Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services ("mybigyellowbus.ca") to see if they can appear as a delegation at an upcoming meeting of the Local School Advisory Committee to discuss driver concerns.

Carried.

Could you please advise if it is possible for a representative from your organization to appear as a delegation at an upcoming meeting to discuss driver concerns?

If so, could you also please kindly advise on when this could perhaps take place? The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. There is also a potential option of the Chair calling a special meeting, depending on your availability.

More information about this committee can be found here: <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/lsc>

Thank you for your time,



Sara Henshaw

Interim Clerk/Legislative Services Manager

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