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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRIPS BUS ROUTES FROM COMPANY FOR POOR PERFORMANCE

Company was put on notice last week, but students were still left stranded

PATERSON – Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer today announced that one of the district’s contracted bus companies is now driving fewer bus routes because of its poor performance in transporting students to and from school.

Superintendent Shafer and other district officials put F & A Transportation, Inc. of Glen Ridge on notice last Friday, and let company officials know that continued poor performance would result in swift corrective actions by the district. However, the company continued to exhibit poor performance through the end of the day on Friday and this morning.

“We made it clear that we would not tolerate students being late coming to school or delayed going home,” Shafer said. “We have thousands of students who need to be reliably transported every day. If a company isn’t ensuring that are students can get to where they need to be safely and efficiently, we are going to find a company that can.”

F & A Transportation, Inc. was contracted to cover 37 routes for $1.9 million. During a phone conference call with the company owner today, the company gave up five of the routes and an additional four routes were taken from the company. The nine routes are valued at $477,116.

Shafer said that the district will go out for quotes and have new companies in place by Monday, September 16. At the end of the month, the district will go out to bid.

Failure to pick up students and excessive delays in bringing them home were among the most reported issues on Thursday and Friday of last week. The district’s transportation officials also reported that the company did not have enough drivers to cover the routes for which they were contracted, and the company’s drivers did not practice driving the routes before the school year started, as is required in the contract.

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