June 6, 2019

Dear school community,

I would like to provide perspective on an [article that appeared in NJ.com](#) about one of our busing contractors.

Busing is a contracted service which means we participate in a competitive bidding process. In our bid specifications, we require buses to be newer. Our district has benefitted from the newer fleet of buses from this contractor, along with additional safety measures. Middletown Township Public Schools provides busing services for over 7,000 students. Since this contractor has been in Middletown, the company has gone above and beyond to ensure our satisfaction with their performance. We have received very few complaints with respect to the company. Also, the District is continuously evaluating the performance of all bus companies we have contracted with, but to date the company's performance has been above adequate and consistent with the other contractors.

The contractor is responsible for providing the Monmouth County Department of Education with certifications and licensures every year. We take the appropriate steps, working with the bus companies, to ensure updated driver licensures and certifications are in place. The District works directly with the bus companies to review safety concerns whenever we receive concerns from parents, staff or administrators. In the rare case safety is compromised, we take the appropriate action.

Due to the limited capabilities of the entire bus fleet industry working in Monmouth County, it is important for the District to maximize the participation of as many qualified contractors as possible to maintain an efficient, competitive marketplace. Through bid specifications, we have been able to maintain high standards for safety and performance.

Sincerely,

William O. George III, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools