

4th Quarter Education

10/1/2021

THE SHORTAGE OF BUS DRIVERS HAS BECOME CRITICAL, AND THE STATE NEEDS TO STEP IN. THAT'S ACCORDING TO ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE, WHO'S ASKING GOVERNOR HOCHUL FOR NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTANCE OR MODIFICATIONS TO SCHOOL SCHEDULES. THE REQUEST COMES AFTER MULTIPLE BUS DRIVERS IN ROME TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, FORCING THE DISTRICT TO SHUT DOWN IN PERSON CLASSES. UTICA IS FACING SIMILAR PROBLEMS, WITH PARENTS FACING LONG DELAYS BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH DRIVERS TO HANDLE ALL OF THE DISTRICT'S ROUTES.

10/18/2021

UTICA PARENTS CAN EXPECT MORE THAN THE USUAL CHAOS IN THIS MORNING'S SCHOOL BUS RUN. THAT'S ACCORDING TO FORMER DRIVERS AT DURHAM SCHOOL SERVICES. THEY SAY THEY WERE FIRED ON FRIDAY, LEAVING THE COMPANY SHORT STAFFED BY AT LEAST A DOZEN DRIVERS FOR TODAY'S RETURN TO SCHOOL.

DURHAM SAYS THEY WERE LET GO FOR MAKING UNREASONABLE DEMANDS. THE DRIVERS CLAIM THE COMPANY REFUSED TO PAY OUT HALF OF A 3-THOUSAND DOLLAR SIGN-ON BONUS DUE ON OCTOBER FIFTEENTH.

10/19/2021

UTICA SCHOOLS COULD BE IN LINE FOR TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING. GOVERNOR HOCHUL HAS REPORTEDLY SETTLED THE LONG RUNNING CAMPAIGN FOR FISCAL EQUITY SCHOOL FUNDING CASE. THE LAWSUIT SOUGHT TO HAVE ALBANY FUND THE STATE'S POOREST SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE CONSTITUTION. THE SETTLEMENT WILL REPORTEDLY RESTORE NEW YORK'S FOUNDATION AID FORMULA. THAT WOULD MEAN AN ADDITIONAL 4-POINT-2 BILLION DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FUNDING FOR POOR DISTRICTS.

12/14/2021

STUDENTS IN HERKIMER WON'T BE BACK IN THE CLASSROOM UNTIL NEXT YEAR. THAT'S ACCORDING TO DISTRICT OFFICIALS. THE MOVE COMES AFTER AN OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 AT THE BIRNIE BUS FACILITY, EFFECTIVELY SHUTTING DOWN THE BUSES THAT GET STUDENTS TO SCHOOL. IN RESPONSE, CLASSES WILL BE HELD REMOTELY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS WEEK AND THE DISTRICT WILL EXTEND THE CHRISTMAS BREAK TO COVER ALL OF NEXT WEEK. HERKIMER IS JUST THE LATEST DISTRICT TO STRUGGLE WITH A SHORTAGE OF BUS DRIVERS.

12/15/2021

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THAT'S ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS AT THE SAUQUOIT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT. YESTERDAY A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT REPORTEDLY MADE A VERBAL THREAT. SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND THE ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETERMINED THERE WAS NO ACTUAL DANGER. THAT

COMES AFTER A ROME TEENAGER WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER MAKING A SIMILAR THREAT ON FACEBOOK OVER THE WEEKEND. THE UNIDENTIFIED SUSPECT, WHO ISN'T A STUDENT, IS FACING CHARGES FOR MAKING A TERRORISTIC THREAT.