

**From:** Will Wetzel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>  
**Subject:** Re: ADSA Bus Accident

Thanks. I hope everyone is ok.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
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**From:** Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:05:22 PM  
**To:** DPS61 Board of Education <BOE@dps61.org>  
**Cc:** Ashley Grayned <AGrayned@dps61.org>; Deanne Hillman <DHillman@dps61.org>; Denise Swarthout <DSwarthout@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; Jeffery Dase <JDase@dps61.org>; Larry Gray <ldgray@dps61.org>; Maria Robertson <MRobertson@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>; Kimmy Taylor <kdtaylor1@dps61.org>  
**Subject:** ADSA Bus Accident

Good afternoon Board Members,

Administration asked me to inform you of the following:

Bus 16 driver (ADSA) was in an accident at Edward & Sawyer Streets. It was reported the bus driver sideswiped a car's side mirror; there are 18 kids on the bus. ADSA Administration, Val Talley, Denise Swarthout, First Responders and WAND were on site. Students were being checked by the EMTs. More information forthcoming.

**Board Members, please do not "reply to all" to this email.**

Melissa Bradford  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the:  
Board of Education and Superintendent  
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**District Internal Extension: 013011**  
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[mbradford@dps61.org](mailto:mbradford@dps61.org)



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**From:** Rochelle Clark

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 5:33 PM

**To:** Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>; DPS61 Board of Education <BOE@dps61.org>

**Cc:** Ashley Grayned <AGrayned@dps61.org>; Deanne Hillman <DHillman@dps61.org>; Denise Swarthout <DSwarthout@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; Jeffery Dase <JDase@dps61.org>; Larry Gray <ldgray@dps61.org>; Maria Robertson <MRobertson@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Kimmy Taylor <kdtaylor1@dps61.org>

**Subject:** Re: ADSA Bus Accident

Update - A female posted a video at the accident on social media. She stated her son called her because the bus driver wouldn't stop the bus after hitting a car. Please note: the investigation is ongoing and has not been completed. She made many statements regarding the bus driver, Mr. Talley, and DPD. She recorded student faces, the bus driver, and the area.

When Mr. Talley arrived at the scene, he told individuals they needed an ID to remove kids to confirm they were the parent or parents of that particular student. The parent(s) who did not have IDs, he took a picture of him or her for safety reasons as they were removing kids. This upset this individual, and she began to make derogatory remarks towards Mr. Talley. She then recorded Mr. Talley and made more derogatory remarks towards him. The police were there when all of this unfolded. This individual made racist remarks towards the police and Mr. Talley as well. There were at least 2 students that you could hear that were clearly upset in the video. There were adults on the scene that were loud and using profanity around the kids. The video, on social media, was about 30 minutes in length, with a lot of profanity. One individual was also making threatening remarks towards Mr. Talley.

At this time, we are still waiting on the police, Alltown and the District to review the bus video and confirm what actually took place.

*Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent  
Decatur Public Schools #61  
217-362-3010*

*When you know better, you must do better.*

#BEACOFFEEBEAN



**Board Members, please do not “reply to all” to this email.**