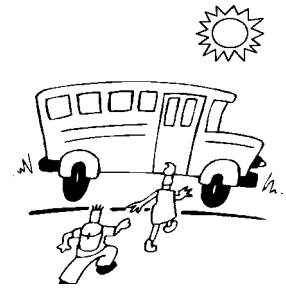


School Bus Safety Summit

Sponsored by: **City Councilors Chuck Turner, Felix Arroyo, & Charles Yancey, State Representative Gloria Fox, and State Senator Dianne Wilkerson**



Equal, Quality Education

Requires Safe,

On-Time Transportation.

Boston Public School Students Deserve No Less!

Thursday, February 3, 2005

6:30 PM

Freedom House

(14 Crawford St, Dorchester, corner Warren Street, Grove Hall)

In the early 1970's, Freedom House was a vital center of our organizing to win and defend desegregation.

For decades, our community has fought for equitable and quality education. While we have struggled to improve the quality of education for all students, we have fought for equal rights for Boston's communities of color, including desegregation. As recent events have shown, this fight is far from over. We have won an important round by setting back an attempt to turn back the clock to separate and unequal education, under the code word of "return to neighborhood schools." **Now we must assure that our children are guaranteed a safe, on-time ride to school.**

Boston Public Schools Transportation Department has created a system that has resulted in wide-spread problems for students and their parents. There are far too few monitors on the buses. Bus routes are overcrowded; time constraints are too tight; clicked routes (2 or 3 schools transported at once) result in daily lateness; an aging fleet that is in disrepair; and we have an inadequate system to trouble-shoot problems. These are just a few of the system-wide **problems that are largely the result of recent budget cuts.**

In a time of limited resources, **we need money to be spent for real safety measures,** not false "cures" like a Global Positioning System, a costly and inefficient plan that provides no safety.

BPS Students Deserve:

- **Monitors on all buses.** A driver needs full attention to negotiate Boston's roads. Student health, safety and monitoring issues are the job of bus monitors.
- **Bus Routing based on student needs, not budget cuts.** No overcrowding. No late or no show buses. No packing students on buses with no regard to safety issues.
- **Adequate School Department and First Student, Inc. emergency safety personnel.** Lost students, health and behavioral emergencies demand immediate attention. School Dept/Bus Company have only 4 persons to service the whole city for the whole day, e.g., 1 person between 6:00 – 8:00 AM for the entire city for hundreds of bus trips.
- **Adequate numbers of drivers,** including those assigned to routes, and those available as substitutes and for emergencies.
- **Information necessary for efficient student rider services** – rosters of names and contact information for students by bus stop, fully detailed bus reports provided to the bus driver.
- **Genuine School Dept./Bus company hotlines** that respect the parents' and communities' concerns, and deliver prompt, efficient, satisfactory solutions to their problems.

The drivers, many who are parents from our community, and their union are working with us in this campaign for safety. They will be making a presentation to the Safety Summit and will answer any of your questions.

We have also invited all charged with the responsibility of providing safe, on-time school transportation: Superintendent Payzant, Director of Transportation Jacobs, and the bus company, First Student, Inc., awarded a 5 year, \$100 million + contract for school bus management, to answer the community's questions.

**Gran Reunion Acerca de: Seguridad En Los Autobuses Escolares
Igualdad en la Calidad de Educacion
Requiere Seguridad, y Transportacion a tiempo.
Las Escuelas Publicas De Boston y Sus Estudiantes Lo Merecen!
Jueves, Febrero 3, 2005 * 6:30 PM * Freedom House
(14 calle Crawford , Dorchester, esquina de calle Warren, en Grove Hall)**

**Somè laj nan vil la: SeKirite pou bis lekōl yo
Egalite, edikasyon de Kalite ekzije SeKirite, transpōtasyon alè.
Elév nan lekōl public non Bōston yo merite mye ke sa!
Jedi, 3 Fevriye, 2005 - 6é30 nan aswé
Freedom House (14 Crawford St., Dorchester, kwen Warren St., Grove Hall)**