



Holmes, Donna <dholmes@palisadesd.org>

Community Message October 1, 2021

1 message

Dr. Bridget O'Connell <superintendent@palisadesd.org>

Fri, Oct 1, 2021 at 4:02 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

Dear Palisades Community,

Congratulations to the Durham Nockamixon community! Durham Nox celebrated its 40th birthday last week! Our students and staff enjoyed a day of games and activities to commemorate this important milestone.



Transportation:

As you may have seen in the news, there is a national bus driver shortage that is also impacting Palisades. In a state press conference yesterday, the following was shared about what is occurring at the state level to address this concern: PDE and PennDOT are reaching out to approximately 375,000 drivers with Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) and issuing a survey that will connect interested drivers with school entities. In addition, PennDOT is temporarily expanding its days of operation to offer CDL skills testing at 23 locations statewide to include Mondays for four weeks beginning October 18. To schedule a CDL skills test, either visit the [Driver and Vehicle Services website](#) or call 717-412-5300.

At the local level, there have been instances so far this year where we have had to combine bus runs, alter extracurricular/athletic transportation and utilize vans, which do not require a CDL, instead of busses. Unlike other districts in the state, we have not had to cancel athletic events due to lack of transportation or significantly change afternoon bus runs to make up for a lack of drivers.

That being said, I just wanted to make you aware that this is an issue in our district and I greatly appreciate your patience as we continue to provide transportation in the midst of a driver shortage. If you are interested in driving a van in the morning, afternoon or both (non-CDL license) or a bus (CDL license), please contact Gerry Giarratana for more information, 610 847-5131 ext 5002. The rates for driving are \$15.85 per hour non-CDL and \$18.00 per hour CDL. Paid training is provided and you must be 18 to earn your CDL.

In addition, Krapf offers the following incentives:

- \$1,000 bonus, obtain your CDL and earn \$500 after your first 30 days, another \$500 after 120 days.
- Retention "extra check" Bonus: Earn \$2.00 per hour for hours worked driving students*, payout 12/17/21, 3/11/21, 7/15/21
- Summers off, with unemployment compensation eligibility

*\$1.00 hourly bonus for bus monitors

Board meeting on October 6th:

The Board meeting scheduled for October 6, 2021 will be held virtually. If you are interested in viewing the meeting you can use the following Google meet link meet.google.com/qvg-itmb-kfp or dial in at 1-573-401-1124 (PIN:126990607). You do not need a Gmail account to participate. If you would like to make a public comment, please fill out a request form <https://forms.gle/5aLavNBaX8Mff5Ei8> by 3:30PM on Wednesday, October 6th. You can access the meeting agenda here <http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pali/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C6PHA647565C>

Additionally, as a follow up to public concern expressed during board meetings regarding masking of students being equivalent to child abuse, I am sharing a letter that was sent out today from the PA Departments of Education and Human Services. Please see the letter attached here: [Letter from PDE and DHS](#)

Dr. Francis V. Barnes Celebration of Life

This Sunday, October 3rd, a Celebration of Life for former superintendent, Francis V. Barnes will be held in the Walter T. Roher Stadium at Palisades High School. All are welcome to attend.

<https://www.johnsonwalton.com/obit.cfm?obitid=1080>



Regards,

Bridget O'Connell

Dr. Bridget O'Connell, Superintendent

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