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## AB 234 RESPONSES

Bus Driver Steve Russ, 25 year veteran

"A driver might have a problem student on the bus, but if he's not a problem at the school, the driver might not be able to get the student removed from the bus. I like the language of the Assembly Bill, but this is my fear, because the District has a habit of doing this now with citations, even with the Problem Disciplinary Student law."

Bus Driver Christie Bynum, 12 year veteran

"I am going to tell you one of the reasons I have for passage of this bill. I drove an elementary school student in 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade. This student had 20 citations including these infractions: Pushing me, Got in my face, threatened me bodily harm from him/ his mother. Every time I thought the school was going to do something about my situations. I would see him in the office doing things for his bad behavior like, licking stamps & stamping letters in the office with the office staff, addressing envelopes, etc., instead of being in his classroom or being suspended. I know, he was an elementary student, but enough is enough. Small kids can do harm to grown-ups too."

Bus Driver Don Altum, 2 year veteran

"I am driving a student in middle school and this kid has 8 citations from me & a few from other drivers. He was finally given some time off the bus, but since he's been back, nothing else has been done to deal with this student's annoying & unsafe behavior. His mother should really be worried about where he goes, because he rides any bus he gets ready to ride without any permission and against Transportation Dept. policy. We are no longer allowed to even take notes from students to get off/on at other stops besides their own or to ride another bus beside their own. Nonetheless, this student does this & more.

Here's a run- down on his citations, which include annoying behaviors:

1. 9-26-02: Student had a on-on-one with me regarding gum chewing & decided to disregard my warnings about the unsafe practice & the possibility of it dropping on the floor/seat for another student to sit in it or step in it. Category 2: Dean's detention received.
2. 10-3-02: Student was bus hopping to another route- Student told to get on/off at same stop by the school in a conference. Told that he rides Route # 1037, as if he did not know this. He was given my route to ride to help him out, because he was being hurt on another bus. This citation was written by the other driver of the bus he hopped onto for his ride.
3. 10-8-02: more gum chewing after more warnings.
4. 10-14-02: More gum chewing & refusal to stop- Required Parent Conference received- back on bus right away
5. 11- 20-02: Student bus hopping/ going to wrong bus stop- "Let him bus hop," was the response at school.
6. 11-21-02: Student is still bus hopping- nothing done
7. 12-6-02: Student bus hopping- Dean caught Student shooting paper with rubber bands after the school had held an assembly regarding behavior. Now the student was suspended from the bus from 12-0-02 thru 12-20-02

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 3/31/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT E

SUBMITTED BY: Bo Yealy

E 1/10

Bo Yealy  
3/31/03

8. 3-7-03: Student assaulted another student with a stuffed monkey & pulled another student's hair out by the roots.

I have tried everything including: Reporting on citations, having a Transportation Investigator handle the problems, relating to my supervisor, etc. The school has a new dean who says that none of the citations prior to 3-7-03 are in the computer. I have my copies, but I am just the driver who's been annoyed trying to do his job.

I am in favor of this Assembly bill, because it is very difficult to do the driving safely & promote a safe environment when one student is allowed to get away with anything he chooses. Who will he hurt next or what behavior will he exhibit so that I cannot concentrate on the road & the kids?"

Jennifer Bird- 5 yr. veteran driver

The driver has written citations for students on the bus. Because the administration does not want to take any action on any citations unless it absolutely has to do so, the drivers have been told that drivers must have witnesses to the citations. Even if a student admits to misbehavior, it is not enough. The drivers must have witnesses. It is the student's word against the driver's word.

Let me share the latest episode:

"One student has a citation for misbehavior on the bus- spitting lugeys on floor & engine cover in the back of the bus. He admitted that he did it. The dean did not take any action on it, stating that I must have a witness to this.

The Dean has now received a second citation for rock throwing at the bus stop. The administration took no action. And, with other citations written on other students, I provided witness names (students). Those students have been beaten up or harassed in their neighborhoods after they got home for the evening or on the weekend. I have decided I will no longer give witness names. I should be able to protect innocent students from harm. I should not need witnesses, because my job is to enforce the rules & write citations whenever those rules are broken. Maybe if we had this AB 234, we could have that conference when the student is getting out of hand, so that no further behavior problem(s) would occur."

Ardis Anderson- 3 yr. veteran driver

*Ardis Anderson 3-31-03*

I was a 6 yr. CAT driver before coming into school bus driving, so I do know something about handling people & public relations. These are my questions:

1. Why does the citation have any categories on them when the school administration does not recognize them?
2. If I am expected to take the citations & the categories seriously, why can't the school administration?

Let me relate my story:

My problems started in the early school year. The student received 4 citations, 2 category 2 & 2 category 3. The category 2's included: Throwing papers filled with lugey about the bus. The window in back was blocked so that I could not see through the "snow". Category 3's included Theft of my cell phone from my purse while I drove, and punching a girl's arm until she had bruises.

The "snow" from the throwing of the paper was done by a group of the students, but This student has other offenses.

We have changed deans at this school, and the old dean did not record the citations in the computer so there's no record of these infractions except my citation copies. The new dean has the attitude that since there's no real record at school, then there's a new start. What about my official copies?

I pressed charges about the cell phone theft, and the school tried to talk me out of it. I filed with the School District Police, and the student received 2 days suspension. No other punishment for his behavior.

The student is still riding the bus. This says that the student can do what he wants, when he wants. He can take as long as he wants to sit down delaying the trip to/from school. He has no fear of anything happening to him. To date there's been no conference with the parents of this student.

Lenora (Jean) Alandzes- 12 yr. veteran

For three days I kept telling a student to turn around from being up on her knees & sit down in her seat. Her reply was, "You can't tell me what to do, and you are not my mama." I pulled the bus over to have her move to the front of the bus. Her reply was, "NO." I told her that I would be taking the whole busload back to school, if she did not come to the front of the bus. She told me she would be "whipping my ass", if she had to come to the front of the bus.

I radioed to Dispatch that I was taking the kids back to school. I was met by the Transportation Investigator in the parking lot at D.I./McLeod. The T.I. took her with him after we had an exchange. He took her home.

I wrote a citation (category 3- verbal assault). The student wrote an apology saying, "I'm sorry if I made you feel unwanted; I was just having a bad day." No Required Parent Conference was held. This was at an elementary school. The parent stated, "We're moving to California, so don't bother yourselves with our child."

We are made to feel like liars, when we are doing the job we are paid to do, and we are trying to do what the law says to do.

At another elementary school I drove a student "Thomas" had 17 citations including cussing me out, jumping up & grabbing my steering wheel on a very dangerous curb. This all started in October, and in March, the Transportation Bus Coordinator finally got the school to remove the student for 2 weeks. At one point the Principal gave the student a Game Boy to play on the bus. After 2 days, I had to write another citation. The Principal came out & wanted to know the whereabouts of the Game Boy. I replied, "I have no idea." Then, while I spoke to her, she walked away from me. After the 2 week removal, the Principal cussed out my supervisor saying, "You are depriving the student of an education."

E 3/10

I have to wonder why we cannot have action to get the parent's attention as well as the school administration. We need passage of this bill. If nothing else, it will wake up the school administration to have to deal with problems that could result in accidents injuring students/staff.

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E 4/10

March 31, 2003

I am Belinda "Bo" Yearly.  
I've been your School Bus  
Driver since Aug. 21, 1981.  
Clark County School District  
is my place of employment.

I want to offer my  
thanks to Assembly ~~member~~ Mark  
Navarro, Chris G., & others  
who have put together  
this Bill 234.

I have submitted a type-  
written report from 6  
drivers who've experienced  
problems getting action at  
~~the~~ the School that's ap-  
propriate.

I am expecting these 6  
drivers to speak with you  
today, however, sometimes  
being what they are, most  
of the School Bus Drivers  
will not be off duty  
till well after 4 p.m.

E 5/10

We believe in a "free public education", but we do not believe in transportation abuse. Transportation is a privilege.

Drivers & innocent students should not be held hostage on a moving 40' vehicle with limited vision to traffic.

Many times as in the 6 cases here, Drivers never even meet the parents of the students.

Another issue here is that drivers are seen as not adequately trained in how to deal with the kids or that the only authority on ~~the~~ student behaviors is the School Principal.

We have Safety First Rules and other rules regarding bus riding. Nevada also has laws that require us to have the students follow the Rules of Conduct.

What sort of dangerous situations ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> set up whenever

no action happens on the driver has to literally "fight" for any action. This is when students learn that drivers & rules have no regard for importance in their world of education.

I, as a driver, want & need accountability & intervention so that students who disrupt, ~~or~~ hurt & others, or otherwise create dangerous situations in the bus, do not get "a free ride."

Here's the positive take on AB234:

1. The driver can ask for bus riding privilege to be removed when ride becomes unsafe for all aboard.
2. The removal provides a "cooling off" period for all so that order can be restored.
3. For a short time, the ride will be safer. (That's for those mischievous behaviors)  
It could be longer for



Extreme Situations.

4. The parent has to share the responsibility for teaching safe bus riding if he/she wants the student to be able ~~the~~ to ride the bus.

5. The student is not "put off" the bus in unsafe places. This will take care of possible predators;

and 6. The conference will bring the parties together who comprise the "Team" (The "Team" being the driver, parent, the student, & School Administration)

I would like to see this (if it becomes law) taught to the Principals & other School Administration. We got the Problem Disciplinary definition & accountability language that our citation category info. is based on in 1999 ~~that~~ legislation. The problem is the Administration either

hasn't been taught about it or is ignoring it. I fear that some administrators will still do what they want with us & give no credence to our cries for help.

I also hope that the conferences held with Special Needs Students will give info. to the IEP because our input as drivers is important. Even though we have an administrator who goes to these meetings, the school does not hear the driver.

I appreciate the chance to speak. I want to leave you with this thought: "The teacher who teaches bus safety to bus riders is a qualified, licensed ~~Bus~~ School Bus Driver."

Oh, one other thing:

I applaud the language of

E 9/10

AB 230 which puts this  
AB 234 into training.  
As with anything, changes  
& their implementation  
must be taught to  
~~the~~ the ones that use  
the new laws. Thanks, again.

E 10/10