

SUPERINTENDENT SETS A POOR EXAMPLE FOR REGION 14 STUDENTS

For the last year, Region 14 Superintendent Robert D. Cronin has been telling parents his reconfiguration of our schools was the only solution to crowding and the need to bring fifth graders back to an elementary school level, and so teachers of the same grade level can collaborate on the curriculum.

On the first day of school, we arrived at the bus stop at 7:25 a.m. At about 7:30, a bus drove by, slammed on its brakes and reversed. The bus driver kindly asked, "Are you going to Bethlehem?" We said, "Yes." The driver said, "I'm supposed to pick her up at the other end of the road," to which we said, "It's a cul-de-sac.

There is no other end."

Funny, we had been told all the routes were timed. How could that have been true when they didn't even know where we lived?

I made five phone calls that day: three to the bus company, one to Mr.

Cronin's office and one to Business Manager Jay Hubelbank's office. No one ever called me back.

I arrived at the bus stop at 3:15 p.m. to take my daughter off the bus, and there I waited. At about 3:50, I received an emergency alert on my cell phone: Buses were running a half-hour behind schedule. Funny, it was an hour after dismissal. Mr.

Cronin said he held the buses because of routing issues. If children weren't picked up in the morning bus run, why did he wait until 3:50 p.m.

to send out the alert, when he knew there were routing issues earlier?

At 5:10 p.m., my daughter's bus drove by several family members, all shouting and waving to get the driver's attention, as my daughter looked out the window with a look of sheer terror on her face. She only returned home at 5:30 that night because her father went to Mitchell School and took her off the bus.

So Mr. Cronin's statement that children from Bethlehem were brought to Mitchell Elementary only if there was no one at their bus stop that day is a lie.

Mr. Cronin has not apologized for what happened the first day of school, even though this whole plan was set in stone months ago, or so he said. He points the finger at everyone else except himself when he is the only one to blame. He then lies to cover up another lie. What a wonderful example he is to our children of Region 14.

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