

Transportation Activities for December 2023



- * Well, for a short month, December proved to be a challenging one for our department.
- * December 1st - Started us off with our first snow storm and the 4:15 am road checks. The roads were a little heavier with snow in some areas but overall not enough to close schools.
- * December 7th - 11th -Life happens we had two drivers go in for surgery, both are doing well but will leave our department shorthanded. Thankfully our sports activities were less this
- * December 13th -For the first time in my 29 years with this district, we had an all building school evacuation. We have done drills moving one building to another building or off-site but never all buildings at once. I am very proud of the way my team responded to the call and the speed at which we were able to accommodate. Within 15 minutes of the call, we had buses moving to the schools to begin evacuations. We had all the students on buses in 30 minutes.
- * December 15th- We lost our Sweet route driver, she took another position driving for FedEx. This created another vacancy and not an easy one to fill. We have always had a driver who lived in Sweet or Ola, but not this time. It caused us to make a few route changes for the morning secondary and elementary routes. The route is covered and we will start with the new changes on January 8th when we start back up. Apologies to those whom the changes impacted, we had to scramble to keep the route going.
- * December 18th- We had the pleasure of having breakfast prepared and served by the district office staff, administrators and a couple of board members. It was very much appreciated by all transportation staff members.



- * December 19th- Mother Nature decided to pull a fast one and ice down the roads after our normal morning road check time. When I went outside at 5:00 am it was wet on my driveway and pickup. By 6:30 there was a sheet of ice everywhere. Even with our On-Spot drop down chains we had buses struggling to navigate the icy roadways. We did have one bus that pulled over along with about 18 other vehicles on El Paso Rd to wait for a Gem County sand truck to get out there and sand the hill coming down onto Dewey Rd. We had another bus pick up the remainder of the route, so only 13 students were extremely late getting to school that morning. Kudos to my AMAZING team who safely transported our students that morning.
- * December 21st- Sadly we said goodbye to one of our Special Needs bus attendants. She joined the Job Corp and starts January 9th. We wish her well in her new endeavor, she did a great job for us and will be missed.
- * December 21st- We finalized the month we our team Christmas party. All told we had 64 people join in for a night of food, fun, Bingo and prizes. We completed the night with a white elephant exchange. Once again so very thankful for all these great people I get to be on a team with.
- * We have 3 new trainees who are in studying to get their CDLs and drive for us. It would be great if we could hire a couple more before spring sports start up and we get really busy. We did hire a bus attendant for our special needs bus, she will begin on January 8th.
Let's hope 2024 brings in the year with good health for all our staff and new drivers being added to our team roster.



Submitted by: Shauna Davis