

Montana school closure began on Monday March 16, and the transportation department supported the District beginning on Wednesday March 18th with the daily delivery of 350 breakfasts and 350 lunches. Initial deliveries started with three bus route drivers covering all communities in Rocky Boy and Box Elder. With only three drivers deliveries last till almost 4:00pm. Beginning on the fourth week of March the number of meals was increased to 500 twice a day, and more drivers were called in to help reducing delivery times. More recently, all transportation staff has been reporting to work and delivering up to 1350 meals per day. Mechanics are maintaining all busses and vehicles used to support food deliveries and vehicles used in education outreach in the community.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> the District took delivery in Billings of a new 84 passenger Thomas yellow route bus ordered in November 2019. The bus has a 40-day registration, fleet insurance, and awaiting title information from Hill County. The Montana Highway Patrol completed a second semester inspection on the new bus on March 25<sup>th</sup>. A two-way radio has been ordered and awaiting installation. Final repairs to the engine of a Head Start bus were completed by Diesel Doctors and that bus has been picked up too. The rear engine 84 passenger BlueBird that sustained major exhaust and DEF system damage is still at Precision Diesel in Havre. Repairs are underway and the District has made a deposit on parts and repairs. Repairs are expected to be completed in the fourth week of April. Four gasoline vehicles are being utilized twice daily to reach homes off main road and expect a greater usage in March and April. Lower Road Box Elder route bus front suspension parts have been ordered and arrived. Repairs are expected to be completed soon. Both District mechanics have been instructed to use written repair/work order forms, fully complete forms for all repairs, and store copies for documentation in bus garage.

The transportation department has been able to cover all nine regular school routes delivering both breakfasts and lunches with the following staff;

- Azure Site -Aaron Aquino
- Duck Creek- Theodore Russette
- Lower Box Elder- Michelle Dobrenz
- Upper Box Elder- Felix Holiquin
- Laredo/ Bonneau- Darrell Sunchild
- Haystack- Corey Chandler
- Parker School- Ruth Four Souls
- Parker Canyon- Ruth Four Souls
- SPED- Merle Big Bow/ covering routes without drivers

We have had some absenteeism due to illness, and probationary employees on Leave With Out Pay. There is concern within the transportation department with most drivers having pre-existing health conditions and elevated work related risk of exposure with the community.