

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Christine Bessin and I live at 20 Old Lyme road, 10583 Scarsdale.

I apologise for the late email but I just heard about this.

I am writing to express my concern about changing the existing bus policy for private and parochial school students. While I can empathize with the position of the parents who desire busing, I do not think this should come at the expense of the safety and well-being of non-public school students who do not receive any other services from the district. Please consider the following points:

- New York State law requires that Scarsdale non-public school students who live 3 miles from their school are bused to school. The same number of buses and bus drivers will be needed to transport students no matter where they are picked up.

- Families of private and parochial school students pay school taxes but their children do not use the schools, only the buses, which frees up more education dollars for public schools.

- Changing the existing policy would put additional burdens on families already paying school taxes and additional tuitions, and would be unfair given the expectations that were in place upon moving in.

- Currently two of my children use the bus system, while I drive my 3-year old to Nursery. I could not send my youngest to school if I had to drive the other two to their school. I am not even sure I would use a Bee line/or other bus stop as most of them are unfit to accommodate a large group of passengers, especially children. That would be very unsafe. And safety should be everyone's first concern.

On a completely different matter, please remember that Scarsdale is picking up leaves in front of houses, every week. According to me, if the village needs to make cuts, this would be a better place to start !

Thank you.

My best regards,
Christine Bessin