

*legislation re qualification
and training of school bus
drivers.*

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the safety of the school children of the Town of West Orange and in all communities of the State of New Jersey is in jeopardy if the drivers of school buses transporting them to and from school are not properly qualified and trained for such duties; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education of the State of New Jersey determines standards for the hiring of school bus drivers for transporting of our school children; and

WHEREAS, such standards are in need of being upgraded so as to require that before any school bus driver be hired they submit to a rigid physical and psychological testing examination, submit their driving records, and be tested on the road as to their knowledge of the operation of school buses and of the traffic laws of the State of New Jersey, so that only such applicants who are physically, emotionally, and intellectually fit, and who are mature and have unblemished driving records are hired as school bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, it will benefit the safety of our school children to have school bus drivers who know the traffic laws of the State of New Jersey and the traffic ordinances of the Town where they will work, and are familiar with the specific routes of travel involved for the transporting of our school children to and from school:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange that it strongly urges the adoption of the following:

1. That the Board of Education of the State of New Jersey adopt mandatory regulations to be followed by all school districts of the State of New Jersey requiring all applicants for school bus driving jobs to submit to rigid physical and psychological testing examinations prior to being hired,

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that they submit a complete history of their driving records prior to being hired, and be given special road tests prior to being hired, and be given special tests prior to being hired to indicate their knowledge of the operation of school buses and of the traffic laws of the State of New Jersey, so that only those applicants who are physically and psychologically fit, and mature, with unblemished driving records, and with knowledge of our traffic laws are hired as school bus drivers.

2. That the Board of Education of the State of New Jersey adopt mandatory regulations to be followed by all school districts requiring all school bus drivers to be examined physically and psychologically periodically during their service of employment and that they be tested periodically during their tenure of employment as to their driving ability and knowledge of our State traffic laws; foregoing to include such mandatory examinations and testing within a short period following involvement of every school bus driver in a school bus accident, so as to insure that our school bus drivers remain fit for their employment in all respects.

3. That the Board of Education of the State of New Jersey adopt mandatory regulations to be followed by all school districts to require that before embarking on his duties as a school bus driver, all such job applicants be given a minimum of 16 hours of preliminary classroom and road instruction so as to familiarize them with the routes to be travelled, the bus to be operated and the traffic laws and regulations of our State and of the particular community involved and to insure that they will be properly trained and qualified for the job at hand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange that it beseeches the Legislature of the State of New Jersey to adopt as soon as is feasible whatever legislation is necessary to implement the

foregoing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange that it heartily recommends to Governor Brendan Byrne that he actively pursue with our State Legislature a program to have them enact into law the aforedescribed legislation and that the Governor, upon passage of such legislation, sign the same into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange shall send after passage copies of this Resolution, certified by him as true copies, to the Governor of our State, to all Boards of Education of Essex County, to all Essex County representatives, to the presiding officers of each house, and to all other persons and groups in interest.

Adopted: 9/14/76

School bus safety

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, there is now pending in legislative committee the following proposed bills:

1. Assembly bill A-1048 that will require reporting of any school bus accident resulting in injury, death or damage to property regardless of the extent of damage.
2. Assembly bill A-1995 that prescribes minimum standards for emergency exits on all school buses, upgrading present requirements.
3. Assembly bill A-1996 that mandates in all school buses padding of all metal bars, including those on seat backs with energy absorbing materials.
4. Assembly bill A-2035 requiring in all school buses seat belts and generally improving types of seats, securing thereof and improving seat back height; and

WHEREAS, the passage of said legislation will greatly improve safety conditions for the school children of West Orange and the school children throughout the State that are transported on school buses to and from school; and

WHEREAS, the failure to enact said legislation will add to the peril of our school children being transported on school buses; and

WHEREAS, similar legislation has been pending for many years without affirmative action having been pursued; and

WHEREAS, studies conducted by Safety Consultants and various safety groups engaged in the field have determined that the requirements set forth

in the proposed legislation are essential to the safety of our school children and will add proportionately little cost to the price of the school bus so equipped; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange, having considered the problem and the studies conducted, joins in urging the passage of said legislation as being essential to the safety and well being of our school children who are transported on school buses to and from school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange that it goes on record as strongly urging the passage of Assembly bills A-1048, A-1995, A-1996, and A-2035, as above described; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange, beseeches, the members of the legislature to speedily release said bills from committee and bring them to vote for enactment into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange, that it hereby expresses to Governor Brendan Byrne its strong desire for the passage of said bills into law and urges the Governor to utilize his good offices to persuade the legislature to quickly enact said bills into law and that the Governor thereafter sign said bills into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Town of West Orange, that the Secretary shall send, after passage, copies of this resolution, certified as true copies to the Governor of our State, the sponsors of the above mentioned bills, the Boards of Education of Essex County, to all Essex County representatives, to the presiding officers of each house, and to all other persons and groups in interest.

Adopted: 9/14/76