

# JESUP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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October 6, 2020

Dear Jesup Community School Parents, Families, and Staff,

On Wednesday, September 9th, during the afternoon bus routes, we were notified of a possible medical emergency of one of our drivers. Jesup First Responders, Buchanan County Sheriff's Department, and school administration immediately responded to the situation. Thanks to an attentive parent who was alerted by bus riders, the bus was secured without mishap. Upon arrival, first responders assessed the driver. The driver was subsequently taken to the hospital for further evaluation. Parents of all bus riders were notified that evening of the incident and that it appeared as though the driver had suffered a medical emergency per the first responders' assessment on the scene. Later that night, the school district was notified that where initially it was believed to be a medical emergency, it subsequently appeared the driver was under the influence. The following morning, Thursday, September 10th, the driver was called into a meeting with district administration. The driver submitted his resignation effective immediately. The Jesup School Board was notified of the incident and the accompanying action taken. The resignation was approved by the school board at its next regular meeting on Monday, September 14th.

All parents of bus riders were informed that while initially we believed the situation to be a medical emergency, that wasn't necessarily the case. The Buchanan County Sheriff's Department opened an investigation into the matter. Effective today, October 6th, the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department has concluded the investigation and filed charges against the driver. A copy of the Buchanan County Sheriff's Department press release is included below.

The Jesup Community School District is disappointed in the actions of one of its school employees and took immediate action to relieve the driver of his duties. The safety of our students and bus riders is of the highest priority and the District will continue to take all actions necessary to ensure this is the case. Thank you for your continued support of the School District and all any questions can be directed to Nathan Marting, Superintendent, at [nmarting@jesup.k12.ia.us](mailto:nmarting@jesup.k12.ia.us) or by calling the District Office at 319-827-1700.

Sincerely,

Nathan Marting  
Superintendent

BUCHANAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
PRESS RELEASE

*On Wednesday, September 09, 2020, at approximately 4:05 pm, the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office received a 911 report of an incident involving a school bus from the Jesup Community School District. It was reported that some students aboard the bus had contacted parents and stated that the driver was having difficulty operating the bus in a safe manner. Concerned for the safety of the children and the wellbeing of the bus driver, one parent was able to keep the bus at a bus stop in the 2800 blk Benson Shady Grove Avenue south of Jesup while Sheriff's Deputies and EMS personnel were dispatched. The bus driver was transported to MercyOne Hospital in Waterloo for medical evaluation. An investigation was initiated following observations noted at the scene by law enforcement. Ultimately, a possible medical episode was ruled out and at the conclusion of the investigation, criminal charges were filed.*

*On Tuesday, October 06, 2020 at approximately 7:00 am, Buchanan County Sheriff's Deputies arrested James Dale Stockwell, 62, of Jesup. Stockwell turned himself in to the Sheriff's Office and was charged with first offense Operating While Intoxicated/Drugged (serious misdemeanor) and 16 counts of Child Endangerment (aggravated misdemeanor). Stockwell was also issued a traffic citation for Unsafe Backing. No injuries were reported in this incident. The Jesup Community School District was in full cooperation during the investigation and the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Enforcement, Jesup Ambulance Service and Brandon Fire Department.*

*NOTICE: A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant(s) is/are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*

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