



Boston City Council

Erin J. Murphy

Councilor At-Large

EMERGENCY LATE FILE COMMUNICATION: Offered by Councilor Erin J. Murphy

As a Boston City Councilor and former educator, I am compelled to address the persistent and alarming issues surrounding Transdev, the company contracted to provide school bus services for Boston Public Schools (BPS). Despite multiple formal invitations, Transdev has consistently failed to appear before the Council to address critical concerns affecting student safety and public accountability.

In 2024, I filed two separate hearing orders—Docket #0705, focused on transportation for student athletes, and Docket #1349, addressing transportation delays during the first week of school. In both cases, Transdev was invited to participate in the hearings. They declined to attend or respond, leaving the Council and the public without the answers we need to ensure the safety of our children.

This pattern of non-engagement is unacceptable, especially in light of recent tragedies. In December 2024, an 8-year-old student with autism was struck and seriously injured by a BPS school bus outside the Curley K-8 School. Dashboard footage revealed that both the driver and the bus monitor were asleep at the time of the crash. The child suffered a fractured femur and underwent multiple surgeries. Then, in April 2025, 5-year-old kindergartner Lens Arthur Joseph was fatally struck by a BPS school bus in Hyde Park. The driver, Jean Charles, was later found to have been operating with an expired license since December.

These devastating incidents point to systemic failures in oversight, driver training, and contract enforcement. Last week, in response to the death of Lens Arthur Joseph, I filed Docket #1101, a hearing order—co-sponsored by Councilor Flynn and myself—to examine the hiring, training, and certification practices of BPS transportation vendors. This docket was referred to the Committee on Education, with the intent to speak directly with Transdev and BPS Transportation to get much-needed information.

Despite the urgency and repeated safety concerns, Transdev has continued to avoid public accountability. Until the company appears before the Council to answer for its failures, I cannot in good conscience vote for the Boston Public Schools' \$1.58 billion budget, which includes over \$189 million for student transportation.

Throughout this year's budget process, the Chair of Ways and Means assured Councilors that any department could be called back for additional questioning. I formally requested that BPS return so I could ask specific questions about the Transdev contract. Yet just one day before the vote, I was informed that BPS could not be rescheduled due to "availability." That response is unacceptable, given what's at stake. Our children deserve safe, accountable transportation—and this Council deserves real answers.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me in demanding that Transdev appear before us without further delay—before any vote is taken on the BPS budget.