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Bus Driver Investigated After Boy Wakes Up In Compound

By [Stephen Thompson](#) of The Tampa Tribune

Published: December 10, 2007

DUNEDIN - A school bus driver is under investigation after a developmentally disabled 9-year-old boy fell asleep on his school bus Friday morning and woke up to find himself in the school bus compound, according to school officials and the boy's mother.

School bus drivers are supposed to walk through their buses after their student-passengers are dropped off at their school, said Andrea Zahn, spokeswoman for the Pinellas County School District.

Chanita Gooden said her son's school bus driver didn't do that step. The driver was identified by Zahn as Georgia Nolati, 61.

According to Gooden, her son, Antonio Stephens, boarded his bus for Curlew Creek Elementary School at roughly 7:40 a.m., at the intersection of San Salvador Drive and Paloma Lane. The fourth-grader later told her that when he woke up he was surrounded by buses. Unbeknownst to him he had awakened in the school bus compound, his mother said.

His school bus driver was getting her things together in the bus to get ready to leave when he woke up, Gooden said. She then gave him a ride to Curlew, stopping at a house along the way, Gooden said. He arrived there at 10:30 a.m., more than two hours after he should have, she said.

Gooden described her son as a developmentally disabled student who is incapable of remembering his own telephone number, and who thought he was the one who would get into trouble.

Nolati is not driving the Curlew Elementary route Stephens takes while her actions



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are investigated, Zahn said.

"They told me there would be some type of punishment," said Gooden, who works as a medical assistant in a doctor's office. "They said he had a good nap. I said that's not acceptable. ... He could have gotten off [the bus in the compound] and got lost."

Reporter Stephen Thompson can be reached at (727) 415-2336 or spthompson@tampatrib.com.

Reader Comments

Posted by (kgarcia607) on December 10, 2007 at 9:16 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

A good nap...omg I would have had a few choice words for them!
What an idiot of a bus driver.

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Posted by (Bobo) on December 10, 2007 at 9:25 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

The bus driver missed a step in the routine, luckily no harm was done. If the system doesn't have a check list for the bus driver to sign daily they should get one set up. The mother says the longer nap is not acceptable. I wonder if she is wanting MONEY. We will soon see.

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Posted by (floridanative) on December 10, 2007 at 9:46 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Why should the mom be entitled to money? Luckily nothing happened to the kid and he was 2 hours late to school, but that shouldnt entitle her to any kind of money or compensation since nothing happened to merit it.

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Posted by (Morris) on December 10, 2007 at 10:14 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Maybe She just wants an adult to be held accountable.

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Posted by (spitbaby) on December 10, 2007 at 11:14 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Her name is Chanita, in her mind she just won the law suit lottery.

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Posted by (dzeien) on December 11, 2007 at 5 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

She is a medical assistant? She has never made a mistake? What if's? coulda done this or that? She is really wanting a bus drivers head served to her. She should be grateful for FREE busing. QYB! and count your blessings.

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