

Parents unaware lack of drivers caused change

By Rachel COleman

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When parents of about 30 children who live in the Western and Cimarron trailer parks learned students in 4th grade and up would no longer be eligible for bus rides to school, they weren't happy. In fact, enough people were upset that they gathered nearly 100 signatures and brought a petition to the USD 480 Central Office to make their displeasure known.

"We didn't even know at first who'd dropped it off," said auxiliary services director Robert Burkey. "Someone brought it to the front desk and left it there, but there was no contact number. So, we just started calling names."

With two secretaries assigned to the task, administration finally obtained the name of a parent who agreed to serve as a spokesperson.



'Cut in half'

Other than the petitioners, the district's busing changes have taken effect with few problems. One exception? An apartment complex that was divided in half by the boundary line. "The line cut right through. Some of the students in the complex were eligible, but others across the complex were not," Burkey said. "That was an error. We moved the boundary closer so the whole complex would qualify."

Thus far, that situation has been the only exception to the new boundaries in place for the 2013-14 school year.