January 27, 2023

Dear Coatesville Area School District Parents and Staff,

The Coatesville Area School District Police and Chester County District Attorney Deb Ryan jointly announce that police have identified the man who is believed to have boarded a Coatesville Area School District school bus on January 26, 2023, at 6:48 a.m., as Sharif Reginal Birckett, 25, from Coatesville. There is currently a warrant for his arrest. He is charged with unauthorized school bus entry and harassment. Anyone who has information or knows the whereabouts of this person is asked to contact the Coatesville Area School District Police Department at 484-784-9118, by calling 911 or, or by contacting your local police department.

The suspect, who was approximately the same height as many high school students, boarded the bus with his face obscured with a hood and blended in with students who were boarding the bus at Sixth and Chestnut in Coatesville around 6:48 a.m. on January 26. The suspect sat down next to a female student and placed his hand under her leg. He then went to the front of the bus while it was stopped at a stop sign and told the driver he needed to get off. He was on the bus for less than a minute. The Krapf Bus Company, which provides our bus transportation, has fully cooperated with this investigation.

We would like to thank Chief Frank Galbraith of the Coatesville Area School District Police, the Coatesville City Police and the Chester County Detectives for their assistance in this case.

As always, the safety and security of our students and staff is our priority. We understand that this incident is concerning and will ensure that we continue to partner with Krapf Bus to strengthen all safety measures.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Dunlap, Jr., Ed. D.

Interim Superintendent

Coatesville Area School District