

NCPTA Fall ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 2021
Embassy Suites
Concord, NC

Call to order:

Patsy Hudson (President) 10:07 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call / Sign-in Sheet

Meeting Minute:

Vec Dunn - Motion

Scott Denton - Accepted

Treasurer's Report:

Scott Denton - Motion

Vec Dunn - 2nd Motion

Committee Updates:

- State Fair moving forward
 - ❖ Volunteers for State Fair October 14 - 25th
 - ❖ Teresa West will maintain volunteer list - Cynthia Phillips and Teresa West will coordinate
- Hall of Fame and Trailblazer no update
- Amanda has volunteered to take over the merchandise trailer and sales

Gregory Poole

- Kirk Burns - Presented Blue Bird Updates
- Thanks to Counties that purchased products
- Robert Hackey and Isaac Wright hired for mobile field service
- Mike is heading up training

- Onsite training available
- Driver and Technical Training available
- All vehicles were delivered before school started
- Parts are being delayed for all vendors
- Product demo for conference
- Please request any unique training
- Propane buses on site - have an electric bus on site and customer events forthcoming in the next several months
- Partnered w/ Duke Energy to sale electric school buses
- Have info. on cost of electric school buses
- Battery capacity is higher and price is lower

Carolina Thomas

- Thomas Schaaf
- Thomas experienced a great year in spite of COVID
- Plans to retire in December 2021 - after 38 years
- Kelly Riviera - Replacing Thomas Schaaf
- Starting to roll out electric bus
- Carolina Thomas is excited about new direction

International

- Updates provided by Jeff Moore
- Appreciate the support
- Newly employed by White's IC
- Whites IC approaching 100th anniversary
- Training
 - 665 Mechanics Trained, 3968 training hours - at no cost
 - 10 mobile Techs
 - 7 Facilities
 - 3 Customer Service Representatives
 - 4 IC staff to deliver parts free of charge
- Partnering with LEAs to inspect school buses
- Placing BSIP DOT #'s on White's Invoices
- Demo - Electronic Bus - November - Schedule some events and willing to help with the application process
- VW replacement buses are on site and will be delivered next week

Lunch Provided by Blue Bird, Thomas and White's

Website

- Tab called Technician Training Corner
- Need contact info. For Trainer to Update Website

NCDMV AND SCHOOL BUS TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Paul Dlouhy provided updates - Manager of School Bus and Traffic Safety
- Timothy Heyward - Former Chief of Police - Director of Training and Development

Virtual Bus Class

- DMV offer Virtual Training Sessions
- April 2020 started
- July 2020 Hired DEPS Trainer from Sampson
- Wake County pushed for the virtual training session
- March 2021, 1st Statewide virtual class
- New concept and staff training from all over the state in the same class
- Last class had 160 participants
- 2 Classes/ month
- 3 Days of BTW training- Need to work on reducing wait time for BTW and testing
- Should help to provide more time BTW and less time in the classroom
- Virtual Program is working well
- Highly recommend placing drivers in the virtual class
- Pass Rate 85.3% Virtual
- 20% Teachers and Coaches, 9% Cafe and Custodians, 22% Drivers
- Reducing amount of in-person training

Challenges Identified

- TEAMS did not work well
- More to Web Ex
- Technology Challenges w/ some people
- 1st 30 minutes of virtual class is geared toward helping people get familiar with online training
- Streamlining testing process
- 2 Classes / Month Virtually
- Could Trained more drivers if DMV trainers could get a bus all day

- Currently train 2 to 3 drivers a week
- No plans to eliminate in-person classes due to connectivity issues
- Effective Feb 7, 2022
 - Classroom will not require more time
 - Testing will be the same, hopefully electronic in the future
 - BTW Requirements
 - Scores must be in system
 - Negative drug test
 - DOT Medical in SADL System
 - Email address to scan to medical (sbmedcert@ncdot.gov)
 - Page 1 is the only page needed
 - Proper CDL learners permit CDL - B w/ P & S
 - Talk to DEPS to determine if they have a relationship
 - Hold permit 14 days for training
 - Let New Hires with permits train while waiting to be certified (allow them to train)
 - Cannot drive with kids on board
 - BTW - Scheduled
 - Entry Level Driver Training
 - 4 days of BTW Training
 - More requirements for CDL drivers
 - 7 backing requirements
 - 3 currently
 - Must be proficient at 7 maneuvers
 - Last day is skills test

County, Person County & New Hanover County very successful using the medical scans

- Adding 11 more commercial schools
- If LEA provides larger venues, DMV would be able to train more students. There would be no cap of 10 people.
- Mechanics operating tow-trucks - do they need CDL? Discrepancy in scoring will get w/ CDL department for feedback.
- Adam Judkins - CDL Manager
- Restrictions are placed on license based on what vehicle they drive while being tested
- 4 Days of training - is that 1 person or 2 people?

State Board Policy Updates

- Introduce new policy updates
- If the school district wants to buy GPS and camera system, it is local discretion as to what you would like to purchase
- TIMS or state approved equivalent
- Show how to seek approval by the Superintendent. New system must accept standard file transformation of student information - school bus routing - to demonstrate data elements of TIMS systems to provide the same information. Once DPI approves equivalency, then it is presented to the state board. Approved on LEA-by-LEA basis. Reporting must align w/ TIMS.
- Randomly selected buses for DPI inspections

Budget

- No budget yet - House & Senate are discussing
- Senate has non-certified \$13.00 minimum or 1.5%
- House has non-certified 2.5% year 1 - 2.5% year 2 or \$15.00/hour
- Paid Paternal Leave 60 hours
- Grant programs for MVA programs
- House budget provision - pilot programs for new school bus technology
- WIFI on buses - funds \$14,000,000. Installation of equipment and location.
- DPI will assist working on Committee Budgets.

DPI Updates

- Update to 30 Day Inspection Manual

- Next Spring to look at manual
- Specification Committee is meeting again
- Last order from current contract
- Changing the committee
- Specific group of people to deal with contract and bus specifications
- Application on website for Specification Committee
- Will contact DMV for specification members.
- Field Consultants will make selection - In late January will be vendor meetings
- New Contracts needed by 2022
- Full site inspections to resume this year in October 2021
- Procurement - no fuel trucks on list (only 4 trucks)
- Much smaller list of new buses being ordered for 22-23
- 1 year lead time for vehicles and wrecked
- Driver shortage - survey through DPI - approval process
- 1,500 statewide - 15%
- Some districts have $\frac{1}{3}$ driver shortages
- Recommend LEAs give DMV buses (spares included) all day
- Plan for another big summer learning program next year

Student Count

1. Need information to make a sound decision on funding.
2. Need data to share with the State Board of Education.
3. May have a second count.

Transportation Directors Training

1. Monthly 2-hour block of time: on a relevant topic
2. 12 - 2 hours once a month meeting.

Transposium Update

- Encourage local districts to vote and establish members and officers for the executive board.
- Dates: June 27-30, 2022
June 29, 2022 Trade Show
- Lots of new classes being offered
- District meetings fall - encourage folks to join and group email
- Download Sponsorship on app as well

- Bio and contact info as well
- 21-22 Data is ready and will be moved over within the next few weeks.
- Hotel reservations will be going out on NCPTA group emails.
- NCPTA Would like to raise registration by \$20.00 to \$150.00 instead of \$130.00
- Current board will remain through June 2022

Motion and Adjourn

Scott Denton - Motion

Marlon Watson - 2nd