

Minutes from NCPTA meeting Sept 22, 2023 – Summerfield, NC

10:06 Marlin Watson brought the meeting to order

Carol Bowes is taking minutes because Brian McClung was delayed

Roll Call:

District 1: 1

District 2:

District 3:

District 4: 5

District 5:

District 6: 5

District 7: 1

District 8: 1

District 9:

Brian Litke gave the Treasurer's report. Last year's conference is closed out and the organization has enough of a balance to proceed with this year's conference in Asheville, NC. The expenses of the conferences depend a great deal upon the venue we use.

Brian also informed us that the board had suggested that we should move our NCPTA accounts to the State Employees Credit Union so NCPTA would have a record from one bank. We were also encouraged to make certain that the signatures on the account were the current officers. It was suggested that the Treasurers of each district become bonded. If anyone has a question they can call Brian.

Marge McGill gave the Service Pins and membership update.

The pen desk at the conference in Wilmington was very busy. Members updated their membership, some purchased years of service, and some discrepancies were cleared up in the records.

Marge has contacted each county and introduced herself and asked about members and those who were no longer members. The last data showed:

1765 members

639 have paid this year's fees

423 retirees

703 Inactive Members.

Marge is trying to purge those who are no longer employed with NC Public Schools Transportation departments. She is reaching out to all districts to help her with new memberships and those names to purge. The NCPTA fees are \$10.00. Some districts have their own fees on top of the \$10.00 but what gets sent into Brian Litke is the \$10.00 membership fee to belong to the NCPTA.

NCPTA membership gives us a voice in what goes on in the state of NC pertaining to us. We have a legislative committee that watches the legislators and gives us updates on things that may affect us. Membership also gives each member a reduced application fee for the annual conference.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that employees join with the organization so we can have the power of many voices when we need a voice.

The State Fair Committee spoke up and stated their need for more volunteers for the Buster Display at the State Fair. They had sent out a signup sheet but still needed more volunteers.

Volunteers get free admission to the fair and \$20.00 worth of food vouchers. Family members can also sign up to work along with an employee volunteer.

The NCASA updates were given by Robert Lee and Alex Chandler. They had their first meeting online on Sept 21. It seemed to be a good umbrella for the NCPTA to work with. They are advocating for connectivity for all students in NC.

Cynthia Phillips was ill but joined us online to speak about the 2024 Transportation Conference.

She has a Technician committee in place and is getting them involved in planning classes for the technicians at the conference. We don't have a lot of technicians who are members of NCPTA and we need to let them know what is out there for them. They need to be members too and attend the conference so they can get training they will not get anywhere else.

Ralph Trango is the head of that committee and he said that held a Zoom meeting where lots of good ideas were shared. One thing they discussed was having hearing checks for technicians at the conference or at each site. At least a baseline check so technicians could have a place to start. A good discussion evolved around that. They also discussed classes on wrecker training and perhaps electronic diagnostics along with PPE and ideas for the Mechanics Roundtable. This is looking to be a great committee.

The conference will be June 17-20, 2024 in Asheville at the Asheville Crown Plaza with the 19<sup>th</sup> being the trade show. Remember to support those who have booths at the trade show...we could not have a successful conference without them. Buncombe County is our host county.

The Crown Plaza is full. Cynthia is working on getting a companion hotel for overflow. If you have a reservation that you find that you are not going to use...please cancel your reservation and contact Cynthia to let her know as she has a waiting list.

Cynthia urges us all to download the NCPTA app so we can get all of the updates before and during the conference. Cynthia has started scheduling classes. She has Wrecker training and Braun Lift Classes in the planning stages and if anyone has any other suggestions she would love to have them.

Please join the NCPTA website with your email address so you can also get the NCPTA emails. Everyone can join. Go to the NCSCHOOLBUSSAFETY website, click on the conference link and the instructions to join the email list are there.

Vendors do provide training outside of the conference. Just contact the individual vendors and they will plan training for technicians in your county and surrounding counties. Those hours will count towards training hours for technician certifications.

Scott Denton gave the Legislative Report

State Employees are getting a 4% raise this year and a 3% raise next year. The bus drivers are getting some part of a raise on top of that. 4.7 million is allocated for all the counties to be put towards an increase in bus driver salary. Local school administrative units will be administering that money.

There are grants available for extended Stop Arms

Scott announced that he is retiring. We will therefore need someone to be the Legislative liaison for NCPTA.

Kevin Harrison gave DPI updates.

There is grant money available for Illuminated Stop Signs and School Bus Signs. Please, please apply for any state grants offered. If we do not use the money it will be put back into the state funds and not offered again. Please apply so we can keep offering grant money that will be put towards student safety.

CPR is now a passing requirement for every high school senior student in NC.

Drivers Ed funds were eliminated for overseeing drivers Ed. DPI is now out of the Drivers Ed Business.

Contingency funds seem to be a thing of the past. Contingency funds from previous years were rolled into your budget for this year.

Service Truck Orders are in. It will be Ford trucks...Chevy did not put in a bid. 80 trucks were ordered.

We still do not have a wrecker contract. No one has offered a price for a wrecker. We cannot order wreckers and then find out a price. State purchase and contract is looking into it.

Fuel Trucks also do not have a contract. It has to be bid to state board by November.

We are holding monthly directors training by Zoom each month. Please watch for this training and tune in for important updates.

DMV Updates:

Paul Dlouhy has moved to a different position and Ms. Lucas and Mr. Fred stated that they needed to meet with him to see where they were and where they are going.

They are on board to make the under the hood testing optional for Bus Drivers. It is a federal rule, however, and it will have to be changed by the Feds.

DPI funds Commercial School Drivers Ed trainers.

They are still short 11 or 12 SBTS trainers but that have made progress.

Your potential drivers should not have to wait in long lines along with regular folks to get permits and CDL license. There is supposed to be a point of contact at each DMV office where they can arrange to get your CDL applicants in quickly for permits and license. If you do not know your contact in your county your DMV SBTS should know. If not...contact the Office of SBTS and they can help you.

CDL will never be online renewal. They will always have to go in to a DMV office to renew.

DMV is also looking to get more locations with wrecker trainers to get our folks through faster. No details yet.

DMV is in support of the school bus roadeo for buses. But...James Horton has retired.

Each district should have their own setup for district roadeo. Cones, PVC Pipe lanes, etc. State DMV will also need to gather their own equipment.

Would state fairgrounds be available for roadeo? Mid May?

We need to get personnel for the competition:

- Judges
- Registers
- Someone to train Judges
- Judging packets
- Location schedulers
- Staff – transit agencies, state DOT staff
- Course Materials
- Lunch and snack sponsors
- Sponsors for Roadeo
- Fees
- Start Times Assignments
- Course Location laid out with specifications
- Equipment for obstacles.
- Volunteers.

State would love for this to go forward. This is an opportunity for good press coverage for school buses.

The three big vendors gave updates on their new buses. All of the vendors spoke of their electric bus offerings and Volkswagen and EPA money available for green buses.

Bluebird will be hosting Casino Night again at Asheville and will do training classes

Carolina Thomas will be hosting Bingo night and will be offering training at the conference.

Whites IC is planning the Corn Hole Tournament and will also be offering classes.

All three vendors will come to your facility and host training for your technicians.

### **VERY IMPORTANT NEWS!!!**

Brian Litke has accepted another position in Nash County away from a Transportation role. He has served as NCPTA Treasurer for many years. According to NCPTA By-Laws the Treasurer of the NCPTA must be in Transportation. A discussion was held and a vote taken and all agreed that Brian should remain as NCPTA Treasurer until June 30, 2024 where we will elect a new treasurer and Brian can train them.

We therefore need nominations for a new NCPTA Treasurer AND a new NCPTA Secretary as Brian McClung will move into the VP position this year at the conference. We are also in need of a trade show coordinator and a Legislative Liaison.

**THIS IS SO IMPORTANT!**

We need nominees from every part of NC. From the West and the East and the South and the North and the sand hills and the mountains and the Piedmont and the beach.

The NCPTA is the organization for Transportation people. Mechanics, Office Personnel, Directors, TIMS operators, Supervisors, Etc. We need representation from all departments. Please find someone in your district to be a nominee for these open positions. You may even nominate yourself!

If elected they would need to attend every NCPTA Meeting and attend the conference to fulfill their duties in those positions. They would be part of the NCPTA board and have the opportunity to work with wonderful people from all over the state of NC. Please help us fill these positions.

The Spring NCPTA Meeting is where we will put nominees together and then at the NCPTA Conference in Asheville in June we will vote on our new Treasurer and Secretary.

So, come to the Spring NCPTA meeting with your nominee names for these open NCPTA positions and then come to the Conference in June to vote for your nominee.

It is essential that someone from each district (and hopefully each county) attend the fall and spring NCPTA meetings. Information is shared in those meetings that you will not hear anywhere else.

So please get signed up for the NCPTA emails and watch for the announcements about the spring meeting and ongoing conference updates.

After this discussion and vote Marlin asked for a motion to conclude which was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.

A box lunch was served for all attendees.