



**OREGON PUPIL  
TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
Northwest Chapter  
optaschoolbus.org

*A non-profit organization*

**NW Chapter Meeting**

Date: October 11, 2018  
Location: Parkrose SD Offices, Portland  
Attendees: Teresa Hooper, Melinda Hammond, Casey Jebens, Sandi Miller, Dan Hagan, Scott Bohl, Jason Chess, Brandon Coonrod, Sandy vanBaggen, T.J. Crockett, Kim Hevia, Mary Conger, Rich Sanner, Teri Brady

The meeting was called to order at 10:31am. Introductions were made by those present.

**Committee Reports:**

Education Committee – This committee gathers and shares the scheduled education opportunities for local districts in case a district is seeking a class for a driver or two. Sandy vanBaggen volunteered to chair.

**Upcoming trainings:**

DDC, Winter driving -- 8 hours, 11/3 – Contact Casey Jebens at Sherwood SD for details  
First Aid – 4 hours, 11/17, 8-12 – Reynolds SD

Sunshine Committee – Teri Brady, Chair – Please contact for Sunshine cards, etc.

State Report – Scott Bohl/Craig Pruitt – See attached

Winter Workshop – Mary Conger agreed to chair – Teresa H & Sandi M to assist. Chapter discussed options of moving the workshop from Monday to a Saturday due to driver shortages and desire to gain more attendees. Also discussed alternatives to high food costs. Committee will set up a conference call to plan. Contact any of the three with ideas for speakers.

Safety Exercise – T.J. Crockett, Chair – Both events will be held again the First Baptist Church in Eugene. Regionals will be on May 4, 2019 and State will be on June 1, 2019. Stay tuned for opportunities to volunteer.

Summer Workshop – Casey Jebens, Chair – Jason C & T.J. C to assist. Chapter discussed the turn out from the last two years with the training being in June. Attendance dropped off considerably. There is a conflict this coming summer with the State Conference dates and other State trainings. Group decision made to push training back to August (first full week). Looking to request Patrick Mulick as the keynote speaker. Concern that drivers want the 4-6 hour presentation to count towards hours. Concerns were also offered up that there are the same classes offered over and over. Would like to use the event as a testing ground for new instructors and topics.

Vendor Updates: Kim Hevia, Schetky NW, shared that the company now has 4 facilities to serve the NW. She also brought brochures for the new Detroit Diesel Engine.

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Rich Sanner, Brattain/Peterson, shared that Brattain had been bought out by Peterson. All products will remain the same. He shared that he would be visiting Phoenix to drive vehicles with the new stability control experience. He also shared about the new Bendix Collision Mitigation systems. Both vendors offered to host future chapter meetings, as well as Western Bus Sales.

Unfinished Business: There are still a few Districts who have not paid for their attendees to the Summer Driver Workshop last June. We are looking for checks that may have gotten misplaced.

A wireless mic setup was purchased for the Summer Driver Workshop for the keynote speaker. Because there is no adopted budget, a motion was made to authorize purchasing of the item up to \$500.00 dollars. Motion passed.

New Business: Due to a conflict with the Olympic Trials being held in Eugene, the State Conference Committee is exploring a new location for 2020(?). State President Chris Ellison has a tour scheduled for Inn at the Mountain in Welches, OR.

Hotel and Conference venues are moving away from full A/V support packages and going to ala cart. These expenses are more than 15 times the costs we have been paying. The State Board has been investigating the option of purchasing A/V equipment that would be shared between the State and two Chapters. The estimate for costs would be \$8,500. State Pres. Ellison asked both Chapters to discuss and vote on whether they would be willing to contribute \$2,000 towards the purchase. Motion was made. Discussion included impact or savings to NW Chapter, storage, repair and replacement concerns and how will we support the equipment during trainings. Motion passed.

President Sandi Miller expressed her hope that we provide some type of training and/or value for attendees to these Chapter meetings. The hope is to have a forum or presentation at each meeting so folks can take information back to their operations for discussion or improvements. For the meeting in November, we are discussing driver recruitment, retention and morale. Beaverton SD, for one example, was reported to have started off the year with a full complement of drivers. Teri B will reach out to the Director to see if he can attend or send a designee to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:44p

Next meeting scheduled for November 8, 2018 at Sherwood School District, 20250 Cipole Rd. Tualatin.

Respectfully submitted  
Teri Brady

Attach:       October report from ODE  
                  Chapter meeting schedule



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Board Members for the 2018-19 School Year:

NW President – Sandi Miller, Sherwood SD

NW President Elect – T.J. Crockett, Reynolds SD

NW Past President – Becky Adovnik, Oregon City SD

Treasurer – Jason Chess, Reynolds SD

Secretary – Teri Brady, Portland Public Schools

Director at Large (2016-2018) – Sean Schroeder, North Clackamas SD

Director at Large (2017-2019) – Sharon Pierce, Portland Public Schools

Director at Large (2018-2020) – Casey Jebens, Sherwood SD

OPTA NEWS, FROM ODE October 11, 2018

Greetings to all of you!

Thanks for being a part of your OPTA Chapter; you are participating in a vital organization for continued safe transportation of Oregon's school kids.

As of today, we have had 86 school bus crashes. Statistically, it all comes down to reference points; the bottom line is we do not use them when turning or backing a bus.

Our team is back to 3 analysts as Brock Dittus has agreed to join us and contribute to the team dynamic. He is taking on T.J.'s old role; so, best wishes to Brock.

DEQ contacts: Gerik Kransky | VW Mitigation Fund Analyst | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality | 700 NE Multnomah St. Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232 | [Gerik.Kransky@state.or.us](mailto:Gerik.Kransky@state.or.us) | 503-229-5177

Eric Feeley | VW Mitigation Fund Analyst | Oregon Department of Environmental Quality | 700 NE Multnomah St. Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232 | [Eric.Feeley@state.or.us](mailto:Eric.Feeley@state.or.us) | 503-229-5177.

Eric has officially replaced Kevin Downing at DEQ. Eric and Gerik are working together to implement all of DEQ diesel retrofit and replacement programs.

The Environmental Protection Agency just opened up the following program. The link below will take you to the 2018 DERA School Bus Rebate Program and DEQ wanted all of you to be aware of this program.

<https://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-rebates>

This program is different from the VW mitigation program and may provide some help with other older diesel buses you may still own. It is worth investigating.

I believe Ukiah School District used the DERA Rebate program to, obtain a new bus and get rid of an old one (1998-99).

No rumblings from the legislature yet, but there is a feeling that it is going to be a very busy year.

Have a great School Year,

D. Scott Bohl

[Scott.bohl@ode.state.or.us](mailto:Scott.bohl@ode.state.or.us)

503-947-5737

ODE Report, 10/11/18

**New positions**

Candace Pelt, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent Office of Student Services, Director of Transportation and fingerprinting, has replace Sarah Drinkwater PH. D. who left in July to be closer to her son in California. Many of you have already received communication from Candace.

Brock Dittus will start work on October 15. He has been hired to replace T.J. Crockett as the third Program Analyst with Pupil Transportation. We are excited to have him join our team.

**Third Party Program:**

Quick review of the program; on September 30, 2018, ODE and DMV reached an agreement to extend the contract to July 1, 2019. This agreement will require some changes with the program. New examiner cards were mailed out the last week of September extending the examiner status to September 30, 2019. The expiration date assumes a new contract July 1, 2019.

The first changes were emailed out on October 5, 2018 to all active testing sites (specifically the examiner). Once we receive the forms back from the testing entity, we will transfer them to DMV. One set of documents will cover all examiners at that location or contractor.

**Travel:**

We are traveling this month focusing on Buster and will start the school visits next month.

**Instructors/Trainers:**

Reminder: applicants must have the correct driving documents to be out on the road with a trainer. Incorrect CLP does not grant driving privileges, even if it was an error by DMV or the supervisor. Driving documents should be checked each time the applicant goes out. The examiner should not serve as the filter.

**Manuals:**

We have a draft copy of the 2018 Minimum Standards; Steven Huillet is updating this document.

Craig Pruitt  
Program Analyst  
Oregon Department of Education