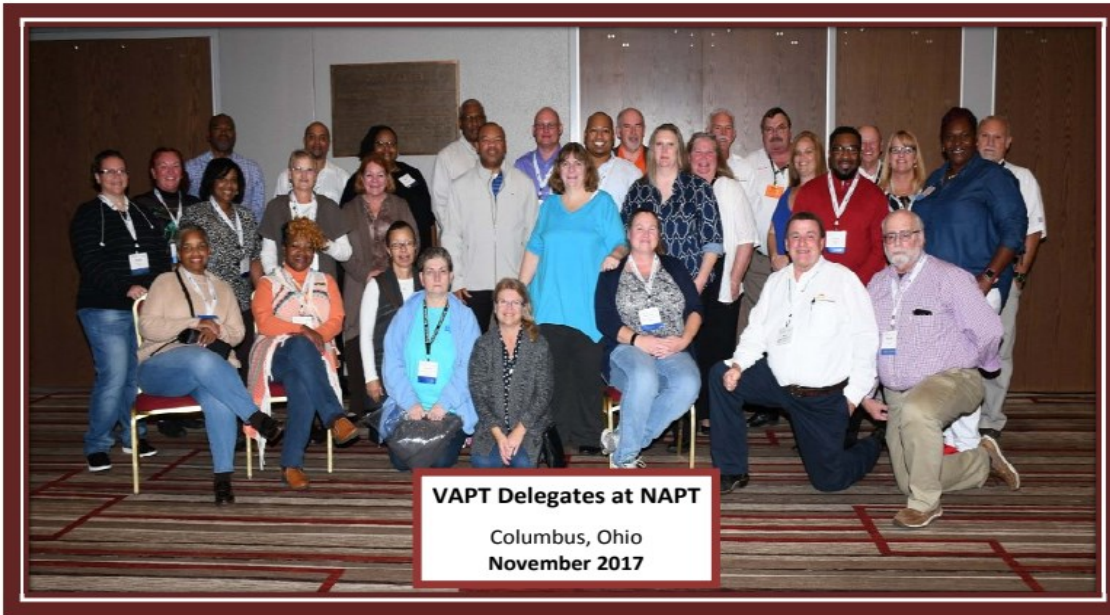


# The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia

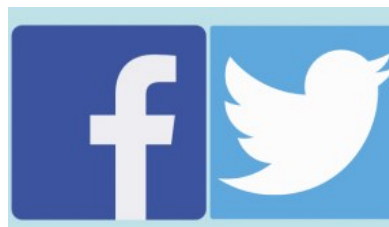


The **National Association for Pupil Transportation** held their 43rd Annual Conference and Equipment Show in Columbus, Ohio in November 2017. Many VAPT members attended this year (see photo above). This year's program had an "enhanced program designed to inspire student transportation professionals at all levels to think differently and tackle common challenges in a thoughtful, innovative ways." There were a variety of classes and business meetings which capitalized on strategies, definitions of school choice and differentiating actionable data from informational data. Questions were asked: "Are you a Nice Boss, or a Good Boss, or Both? And, topics on I.E.P.'s problem-solving, and, of course, the "Strategies to Attract, Recruit and Retain Talent". Keynote speakers were: Jack Shaw, Stacey Bess, Roger Crawford, and Jia Jiang.

Next year, the 44th National Association for Pupil Transportation Conference will be held October 27-30, 2018 in Kansas City, MO.



Photographer: Jaime Gallego



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## VAPT Board Members

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**Region 6:** Mike Stovall, Roanoke Co.

**Region 7:** Gary Adams, Scott County

**Region 8:** Torey Holmes, Prince Edward Co.



# STUFF THE BUS: FCPS TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Twenty-two schools and school-division departments donated 9,402 pounds of food on Nov. 9 to be delivered to the community food bank. Three school buses traveled throughout the county with students and staff coming out to stuff the buses with all their donated food items. The Fauquier County Public Schools transportation department began the annual "Stuff the Bus" food drive in 2012.

"This year we exceeded our wildest dreams!" said Transportation Director Cheryl Fisher. "It was a huge success and lots of fun! Many families will benefit from these efforts this holiday season. The look of joy on the faces of our students said it all while they loaded the buses. They are excited to be helping others and many comment on just how good it makes them feel."

Fisher said there is a bit of a competition going on from the sidelines. Schools count the number of items donated and then all items are weighed in at the food bank (by school) and the results of their efforts are posted. Winners get bragging rights for the year. Because boxes of mashed potatoes don't weigh as much as canned sweet potatoes, schools also count the number of items collected as well as the total weight. Auburn Middle School won the friendly competition with 2,181 donated items totaling 1,930 lbs.



Transportation Teams!



## Virginia Beach School Bus Accident



According to Channel 3 News, Norfolk, Virginia, a Virginia Beach School Bus was involved in a crash on December 11, 2017.

"A motorcyclist was injured Monday morning [at about] 6:22 a.m. The motorcyclist was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. Virginia Beach Public Schools says the bus was headed to Renaissance Academy when the crash occurred. No students were on board at a time of the crash. The bus driver was not injured. After being shut down for several hours, the roadways were reopened."

Source: wtkr.com; Author: Becca Mitchell



Cold weather has certainly played havoc with the Transportation Departments for the beginning of 2018. School transportation departments have been working tirelessly over the first week of the school year to be proactive and safe. Severe decreases in temperature has buses not starting and the "Bomb Cyclone" Storm hitting the east coast as this publication is being written has the entire Eastern Seaboard of the United States on edge. Many jurisdictions will see snow this week after never seeing a snowflake in over 100 years. Fairfax County Public Schools, according to Channel 4 News in Washington, DC, had "school buses were prevented from getting out on their routes early Tuesday morning. (January 2, 2018). Out of 8,700 bus routes in Fairfax County, the school district said 200 routes were impacted, meaning hundreds of students were forced to wait in the cold for up to an hour.)

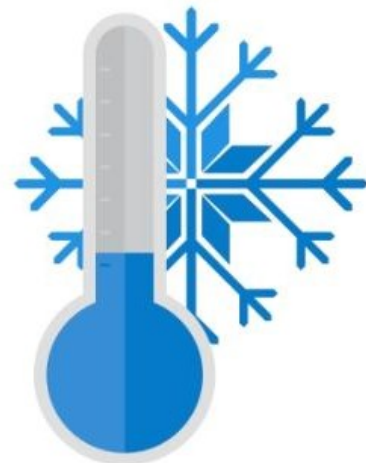
Teams of drivers started buses in Frederick County Public Schools, Winchester, VA on January 2nd for the return-from-break on January 3rd. All 200 buses were started and running for a substantial amount of time; however, on January 3rd, six buses did not start due to the cold temperatures. Mr. John Grubbs, Transportation Director for Frederick County stated that overall, being proactive helped with the situation and the team working together to resolve issues; however, with this many buses, there will always be a few glitches that have to be worked out.

The Bomb Cyclone that hit the east coast has school divisions making decisions to close or delay earlier. This is due in part to better weather predictions and reporting than ever before.

Source: <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Cold-Weather-Chills-School-Classrooms-in-Maryland-Stalls-Buses-in-Virginia->



## Bitter Cold Temps Delay Schools after Holiday Break



Bitter cold temperatures for the State of Virginia during the Holiday Break has gripped Transportation Fleets on the return to business on January 2nd. Clarke went on a 1-hour delay; Highland and Rockbridge Counties were on a 2-hour delay. WHSV3 stated in a Wind Chill Advisory affecting Central Virginia Blue Ridge/ Northern Virginia Blue Ridge: “[to expect] very cold wind chills. The cold wind chills will cause frostbite in as little as 30 minutes to exposed skin. Expect wind chills to range from 10 to 15 degrees below zero.” A wind chill advisory means that cold air and the wind will combine to create low wind chills. Frost bite and hypothermia can occur if precautions are not taken.” It is crucial to inform transportation personnel on the benefits of proper dress during these cold temperatures.

Source: [wHSV.com/weather](http://wHSV.com/weather)

**DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER**

adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

**CHILLY**

- 1-2 layers
- long layer
- outer layer to keep out wind, rain
- warm shoes water proof

**COLD**

- 2-3 layers
- warm hat
- gloves
- outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
- boots water proof
- 1-2 layers

**EXTREME COLD**

- 3+ layers 1 insulating
- warm hat
- face mask
- outer layer to keep out wind
- gloves
- boots water proof
- 2+ layers

weather.gov/safety

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## Student dies in Georgia School Bus Accident December 5



ABC News reports that “a 5 year old aboard a school bus died early this morning after the vehicle smashed in to two trees in Southeast Georgia. The student, Cambria Shuman from Hinesville, Georgia, was one of 22 passengers aboard the bus when the driver lost control at approximately 6:50 a.m. Apparently, the bus ran off the roadway on Highway 196 in Liberty County and veered into a ditch before striking a tree, state police to ABC News. Upon impact, the bus caved in on the passengers, and the trees’ branches protruded into the bus, leading to the child’s death and injuring others. The bus driver, 62-year-old Hinesville resident Evelyn Rodriguez, was trapped in the bus and later taken to Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah after she was extricated. The students were taken to Liberty Regional Medical Center in Hinesville and Winn Army Community Hospital in Fort Stewart with “multiple injuries”. Charges in the accident are pending, police said. The bus “is currently under investigation” by state police and grief counselors [were] available as the community mourns the unexpected loss of life according to a statement release from the school system. **Source:** <http://abcnews.go.com/US/child-dies-georgia-school-bus-crashes-tree/story?id=51587320>

**Hampton City Public Schools** recently created a School Bus Safety Video. Darrin Wills, Region 2 Representative and Director of Transportation worked with local law enforcement to promote Bus Safety in their city. Here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oah2a4Z3XZU&feature=youtu.be>



Darrin Wills



# Virginia LOVES the School Bus!

Counties all over Virginia are proud to be participating in the American School Bus Council's "LOVE the BUS" campaign during the month of February 2018! To all directors: send a picture of one of your drivers who deserves to be highlighted in our newsletter for their efforts in "Loving the Bus" in our state. It's not just about how many years they've driven—it's about the WHOLE package. Professionalism, courage, courtesy, attendance, loyalty to their profession, hospitality and customer service. Who is this person from your county? Send us a picture of this employee doing what they do best: taking care of our Virginia students by exhibiting their love for the bus. What makes this employee stand out and have they made a difference to those in the fleet and in the students they transport? Send us your recommendation (one suggestion per county, please).

Also, what do you as a Transportation Organization do to "LOVE THE BUS"? Send us those suggestions, too! We want to see your celebrations in action and know why those in your county "love the bus"!



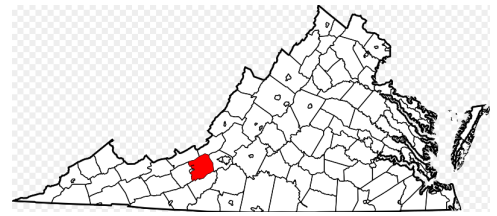
Send all of your suggestions to Beth Brown, Newsletter Coordinator at [brownel@fcpsk12.net](mailto:brownel@fcpsk12.net)

**LOVE THE BUS**

*February 2018*



# Spotlight on....



According to the Montgomery County, Virginia website ([www.montgomerycountyva.gov](http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov)) Montgomery "is located in southwestern Virginia and is home to an estimated 98,121 residents in its 393 square miles". The County — which is home to two of the state's four largest towns, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg—is a high-tech community strategically located on the Interstate 81 corridor. It traces its origin to 1776 when it was formed and named after General Richard Montgomery, an American hero of the French and Indian War and the America Revolution. Christiansburg, the county seat was named in honor of Colonel William Christian. Blacksburg is home to Virginia Tech, one of the nation's leading educational institutions and research universities.

There are approximately 9,935 students enrolled in Montgomery County and its Pupil Transportation Department transports over 7,000 of the students on 79 regular routes and 13 Special Needs routes. Rebecca Mummau has been the Director of Transportation there for the last 19 years and Mr. Eddie Walters is her assistant. Rebecca started her transportation career in Culpeper County in 1974 followed by 12 years in Roanoke City Schools before going to Montgomery County. She said, "It's been a very rewarding career, but I plan to retire at the end of this school year and take some time to enjoy life without so much stress." Congratulations to Rebecca!

According to the Montgomery Schools website ([www.mcps.org](http://www.mcps.org)), their mission is that "Every Student will graduate career and college ready and become a productive, responsible citizen". A big shout-out to the Montgomery County Transportation Department Team!!! Thank you for your efforts in transporting Virginia Students!

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"Looks like Santa delivers kids when he's not delivering toys."

Source: <http://www.schoolbusfleet.com/photogallery/726646/photo-gallery-crack-up-at-our-latest-school-bus-cartoons>

Work hard and be kind to people

Work Hard Stay Humble



"No, I didn't tell a joke. I requested a budget increase for school transportation."

choose kindness and laugh often.