



**2021**

**ANNUAL  
VAPT AND VDOE  
Professional Development  
CONFERENCE WEBINAR SERIES**

**VIRTUAL PROGRAM**

**June 21-23, 2021**



## Monday, June 21, 2021

- 8 am - 4 pm (times vary)    **Technicians' Sessions**  
*Coordinator:* Robert Clinebell, Norfolk City
- 9– 11 am    **New Directors' Conference Orientation**  
Are you new to Pupil Transportation or have you recently taken on the leadership role in your department? Join us for this introductory session where you will meet the VAPT Board, learn more about this year's conference and connect with colleagues from around the state.
- 12 pm    **First General Session**  
  
**Keynote: "An Introduction to Pupil Transportation in Virginia"**  
*Speakers:* Regional Directors
- 1 – 2 pm    **TSA General Security Brief**  
*Speakers:* Joshua Gray and Laurie Lewis  
Transportation Security Administration
- 2 – 3 pm    **Outlook for Alternative Fuel Buses in Virginia**  
*Speakers:* Marc Lemmond, Virginia Clean Cities  
Deborah Coles, Louisa County  
Alleyn Harned, Virginia Clean Cities  
*Moderator:* James Lash, Virginia Beach City  
Learn more about the Environmental Rationale (Air Quality, Childhood Asthma, etc.), Types of Alternative Fuel Buses and their benefits, Funding and Incentives, Case Studies, and feedback from School District stakeholders
- 3 – 4 pm    **Supporting Students with Autism in School Transportation**

*Speakers:* Crystal Hence and Josh Taylor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Autism Center for Excellence

Bus drivers and transportation staff play an important role in students' daily lives, including those with autism. Students with autism often interact differently with their environments, from sensory sensitivities to differences in their social engagement and communication with adults and peers. Due to these differences, students with autism may benefit from support from transportation staff who understand strategies to make their ride to and from school a positive experience. This session will provide participants with an overview of some of the key features of autism, how those may impact students' transportation, and strategies for helping students with autism be successful in transportation settings.

4 – 5 pm      **VAPT Business Meeting**

## Tuesday, June 22, 2021

8 am – 4 pm      **Technicians' Sessions**  
(times vary)      *Coordinator:* Robert Clinebell, Norfolk City

8:30 – 9 am      **Vendor Presentation - Blue Bird Bus Sales of VA**

9 – 10 am      **Busing on the Lookout: School Transportation's Role in Combating Human Trafficking**  
*Speaker:* Lexi Higgins, Program Specialist, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) Truckers Against Trafficking  
Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) is on a mission to train every member of the school transportation industry to combat human

trafficking in their everyday job. Learn more about the issue of child sex trafficking and why schools and school transportation can be important partners in preventing and interrupting this crime.

10 – 11:30 am **Are You Ready for Map21? And other VDOE Updates**  
*Speakers:* Jackie Johnson and Kerry Miller, Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

11:30 – 12 pm **Vendor Presentation – Kingmor Supply, Inc.**

1 - 2 pm **Tools and Resources from the VCU Autism Center for Excellence**  
*Speakers:* Crystal Hence and Josh Taylor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Autism Center for Excellence

Finding the right strategies and approaches can be key to supporting students with autism in transportation. Fortunately, the VCU Autism Center for Excellence has many FREE tools and resources designed specifically for transportation staff and even more on skills and routines needed for the Return to Learn. This session will provide an overview of many of these free resources available to transportation staff about supporting students with autism during the transition back to in-person classes.

2 pm – 3 pm **Round Table Discussion (Special Needs)**  
*Leaders:* Herbert Byrd, Chesapeake City; Diane Fleming, Hanover Co.; Larry Frazier, West Point; Barbara Lancaster, Stafford Co.  
*Moderator:* Heather Handschin

3 – 4:30 pm **Looking Beyond the Bumper: Lessons Learned during a Career in Pupil Transportation**  
*Leaders:* Dwight Elam, Halifax Co.; Cheryl Fisher, Fauquier County; Nancy Hendrickson, Falls Church City; Barry Sudduth, Stafford County  
*Moderator:* June Eanes, Executive Director, VAPT  
The FY21 class of retiring Transportation Directors share some of their favorite stories, most difficult challenges overcome during their career, and best tips for future success. Bring your unanswered questions for one final round of interactive Q & A!

4:30 pm – 5 pm **Vendor Presentation – Sonny Merryman, Inc.**

**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

8 am – 4 pm **Technician’s Sessions**  
(times vary) *Coordinator:* Bob Clinebell

9 – 12 Noon **Second General Session**

9 – 10 am **TSA Active Shooter-Run, Hide, Fight**  
*Speakers:* Joshua Gray and Laurie Lewis  
Transportation Security Administration

10 - 11 am **VAPT Business Meeting**

11 am – 12 pm **Busing on the Lookout: Creating an Anti-Human Trafficking Action Plan**  
*Speaker:* Lexi Higgins, Program Specialist, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) Truckers Against Trafficking  
School bus drivers are uniquely positioned to recognize the signs of human trafficking in the course of their everyday jobs when equipped with

the language and tools to do so. There are many simple things school transportation departments can do to help protect the children they transport each day. Explore the free, industry-specific training materials available through Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) and understand BOTL's recommendations for how to best empower your drivers and staff on this issue.

12 – 3 pm      **Breakout Sessions**

12 pm

Breakout #1 – Continuing the Conversation - Special Needs

Breakout #2 – Continuing the Conversation – Alternative Fuels

1 pm

Breakout #1 – Delegate Discussion – Boosting Employee Morale

Breakout #2 – Delegate Discussion - Virtual Training

2pm

Breakout #1 – Delegate Discussion - Recruiting & Retention

Breakout #2 – NAPT Industry Certification (recorded)

3 pm              **Announcements**

### **VAPT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Vice President – Heather Handschin, Prince William County  
Secretary – Darrin Wills, Hampton City  
Treasurer – Floyd Miles, Richmond City  
Past President – James Lash, Virginia Beach City  
Executive Director – June Eanes, Retired

### **Board of Directors**

Region 1 – Mervin Hence, New Kent County  
Region 2 – Shay Coates, Newport News City  
Region 3 – Larry Frazier, Town of West Point  
Region 4 – John Grubbs, Frederick County  
Region 5 – Charmane White, Albemarle County  
Region 6 – Kenyon Scott, Pittsylvania County  
Region 7 – Phillip Griffin, Smyth County  
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### **DOE Staff**

Vijay Ramnarain, Director of Support Services  
Alice Matthews, Administrative Assistant  
Kerry Miller, Associate Director  
Jackie Johnson, Associate Specialist

Dr. James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Kent C. Dickey, Deputy Superintendent for Finance & Operations

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO . . .**

Speakers for this week's workshops  
Vendor partners for leading technician training  
VAPT Officers, Committee Members and Volunteers  
School division personnel who attended the conference

### **Please mark your calendars:**

Joint Conference – VAPT with SESPTC  
Hampton, Virginia July 19 -22, 2022