



ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

Adoption **RECOMMENDED** by the Resolutions Committee

Pending approval by General Membership at January 25, 2020 Annual Meeting, resolutions become part of the Virginia PTA Advocacy and Legislative priorities.

SUMMARY:

School buses are the largest form of mass transportation in the country. There are 17,000 school buses in Virginia and almost the entire fleet runs on diesel fuel. Replacing diesel buses with electric buses will reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality; save school districts money in gas and maintenance costs and provide a healthier, safer, quieter ride to school for students.

Dominion Energy has proposed a funding program where they will pay for the charging infrastructure and the cost difference between an electric and diesel bus. They plan to deploy 50 Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) electric buses by the end of 2020 and, with approval from the state legislature, expand the program to 1,000 buses by 2025. Dominion's goal is to have 50% of all diesel bus replacements be electric after 2025 and 100% after 2030. Virginia's electric bus proposal is the largest in the United States and could serve as a catalyst for a nationwide fleet conversion bringing down the upfront costs for electric buses.

WHEREAS, Nearly all of the buses in Virginia's 17,000 school bus fleet runs on diesel, with approximately 3,500 buses being older than 10 years and more than 500 buses across the Commonwealth using engines built prior to the 2007 Environmental Protection Agency diesel standards; and

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have shown that inhaling diesel exhaust, produced by school buses can cause respiratory diseases and worsen existing conditions like asthma, the negative effects of which are especially pronounced in children; and

WHEREAS, Expanded driving range, dramatic declines in battery costs and improvements in performance, have made electric buses a viable alternative to diesel-powered and other fossil fuel buses; and

WHEREAS, Electric buses are quieter to operate which will increase driver awareness and provide a more pleasant ride for children who are sensitive to noise; and

WHEREAS switching school buses from diesel to electric would cut emissions by 5.3 million tons and save schools about \$2,000 a year in fuel costs and \$4,400 in maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Technology allows energy stored in school bus batteries to be fed back into the power grid while the bus is not in use; and

WHEREAS, Electric buses cost about \$200,000 more than their diesel counterparts, and school districts incur substantial cost to install charging stations and electric transportation infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Virginia PTA supports funding, grants and incentive programs that enable school districts to purchase electric school buses and install charging stations and electric transportation infrastructure.

