



Goochland  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 30, 2013

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA –***

**Transportation and Maintenance Center Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening**

Leadership from both the county and schools, staff, community members, school board members and county supervisors gathered on the afternoon of September 25th to commemorate the grand opening of the recently purchased and renovated Transportation and Maintenance Center in Oilville, VA.

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Originally proposed by citizen, “Buzz” Coe, the concept of purchasing the facility was discussed by both the school and county boards and eventually a proposal was developed by the school division leadership. “Addressing the transportation facility needs has been part of the capital planning discussions for many years,” commented Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations, Peter Gretz.

The new facility includes additional bus bay space and about double the overall square footage as well as improved ventilation and lighting. “The mechanics used to have to deflate bus tires to get the vehicles into the old bays,” explained Transportation Supervisor Betty Thurston. “They are now working in a professional and safe environment.”

James Lane, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

The ribbon was cut by school and county board chairmen, John “JD” Wright and Ken Peterson, both of whom joined Transportation Director, Betty Thurston, and superintendent, James Lane, in sharing comments during the ceremony. “We especially recognize the tremendous team effort that has gone into making this day a reality,” said school board chairman, JD Wright. Supervisor, Ken Peterson, followed with his own remarks, “These folks transport our students every day. This has deserved attention for a long time and we are honored to be here today to celebrate this.”

Michael E. Payne  
District 1

W. Kevin Hazzard  
District 2

John L. Lumpkins, Jr.  
District 3

I have to fight my emotions up here right now, “remarked Thurston as she briefly told the story of the transition. “We have waited a long, long time to be in a facility like this.”

Elizabeth A. Hardy  
District 4

John D. Wright  
District 5

Superintendent James Lane addressed those in attendance with admiration for the hard work and collaborative spirit that was displayed throughout the process of acquiring and moving into the new facility. “I have to recognize the incredible work of Sonny Turner and the maintenance staff. They not only handled the routine summer maintenance and minor emergency problems

that always arise during the fall, but were also able to move two entire departments to the new building. Both the maintenance and transportation departments put in a lot of overtime and I appreciate their dedication and support.”

“I also want to call your attention to the freshly painted logo,” Lane continued, pointing to the big, red “G” logo painted above the doorway. “Two school board members, JD Wright and Mike Payne, gave up their weekend to paint over the old logo and paint this new one on both sides of the building. This is the kind of team effort we’ve seen throughout this process, from the governing bodies and leadership to the staff, everyone has been working together.”