

Denny Coughlin, President
School Bus Training Company
PO Box 954
21646 State 87
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Education:

Graduate of Park Rapids High School, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Graduate of Staples Technical College, Staples, MN

Farm Mechanics

Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount, MN /

Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights, MN

Supervisory Management

Numerous classes and seminars on management and industry related topics from 1975 to present.

Industry associations:

Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT).

Metro School Bus Maintenance Association (MSBMA).

National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT).

Work history:

John Deere dealership, Glencoe, MN

1970-71

Mechanic

U-Haul Service Center, Savage, MN

1971-1975

Mechanic and Shop Foreman

Motor Parts Service, Shakopee, MN

1975-76

Outside Sales

North American Engineering, Minneapolis, MN

1976-78

Driveline Expert and Sales

Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis, MN

1978-2010
Mechanic (7 years), Fleet Manager (25 years)

Dakota County Technical College
1979-1995
Technical Tutor and Licensed Instructor

Retired
2010-present
Consulting and Teaching

During my career with the Minneapolis Public Schools, for 25 years I was responsible for the purchasing (specifications and evaluation) of the school buses and white fleet, complete maintenance of the district fleet and personnel in two repair facilities, purchasing of fuel and component parts, and disposal of equipment.

I started as a mechanic for 7 years. In 1985 I was promoted to shop supervisor. At that time, the district owned 114 school buses and about 150 white fleet vehicles and motorized equipment. Within 5 years we grew to 215 buses and about 240 white fleet vehicles and equipment. We lowered the number of mechanics and improved our state inspections to compete with the best in the state. I had (only) two mechanics quit to work elsewhere in 25 years and never took an employee to a disciplinary hearing. We successfully ran a mechanic to vehicle ratio that is beyond anyone's expectation in the industry, due to the quality of technicians hired, equipment provided for the shop, processes that everyone agreed to and understood, and a shared leadership style of management that moved the decision making to the lowest level possible. Our shop was the model for the industry. I wrote many shop management classes that are taught at the national level, using our shop as the standard.

This position offered me many opportunities, which I readily accepted. I became recognized in the school bus industry in Minnesota and later with the school bus manufacturers, then at the national level. The following is a listing of some of my experience and accomplishments. This is not all inclusive.

Attended 69 Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) conferences in 25 years.

Presented at many conferences, numerous topics.

Attended the Minnesota Train-the-Trainer program from 1987 to 2015.

Presented for (approximately) 18 years, a variety of topics.

Attended every National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) conference since 1994.

Presented at every NAPT conference since 1999. Commonly 4 classes per conference.

Attended every School Transportation News (STN) EXPO conference since 1999.

Presented at every STN EXPO since 1999. Average 4 classes per conference.

Coordinated Training for pre-conference seminars, equipment related, for about 7 years.

Attended and presented at (about) three state conferences per year throughout the country for the past 15 years.

Presented numerous times at the National Association of State Directors for Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS).

Taught a two day seminar on school bus maintenance for the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, to fleets in New York, Tennessee, and Minnesota, 1988-89.

Served on the Minnesota Governor's Task Force for Student Transportation Safety in 1995-96 and 2006.

Testified in (State) House and Senate hearings on various topics.

Subject matter expert, wrote, and teach Professional Development Series Classes that are taught through the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT).

Shop Management

Advanced Shop Management

School Bus Specifications

School Bus Manufacturing

Building or Modifying a Transportation Facility

Risk Management and Security for a Transportation Provider

Crash Investigation (re-write)

Chaired the Minnesota State School Bus Purchase program from 1996 to 2011. Facilitated the organization of the technical portion of the bid. I was instrumental and the guiding force in the creation of the program in 1995.

Attended the National Congress on School Transportation (NCST) in 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010.

Served as a state delegate, 1990

Served on the body writing committee, 1995

Served on the chassis writing committee, 2000

Served as the chair of the chassis writing committee, 2005

Served on the special education writing committee, 2010

Served on the security writing committee, 2015

I have authored many articles for School Transportation News, one of the two magazines that serves the school transportation industry. Their circulation is about 22,000 throughout the United States and Canada. I have been on the editorial advisory board for STN for about 15 years. I am consulted for numerous articles from staff and contract writers on topics concerning the industry.

Co-organized the Metro School Bus Maintenance Association (MSBMA) in 1985. This organization provides training for school bus technicians and a network for school transportation shop managers in Minnesota.

Served on the National School Bus Security Task Force. A group of six industry personnel from three National organizations. Helped develop School Bus Watch, a National program to educate 600,000 school transportation personnel on terrorism. Personally trained hundreds of school bus drivers.

Successfully consulted with numerous transportation departments and shops in the US and Canada to help them be more efficient and effective with their operations. This is accomplished through an evaluation of their facility, personnel, and processes. Recommendations are made for changes and alternative procedures within their organization.

Served on an advisory committee with a major school bus manufacturer to develop the "Next generation school bus." This was a three year project with about 8 industry professionals from throughout the country to offer advice, ideas, and opinions for their future school bus.

I have toured (most) all the major school bus manufacturing plants, numerous times each. I have been familiar with many of the design engineers, plant production managers, and regional company representatives from the major bus manufacturers.

Developed a class for fire and rescue, medical, and law enforcement personnel to understand the 'Construction and Design' of the school bus. I estimate to have trained about 15,000 fire and rescue personnel and destroyed about 190 school buses in drills, with and without students involved in the drills.

Developed a class for Law Enforcement, specifically SWAT teams to understand the school bus better in a breaching situation. These classes are usually about 6 hours, including a classroom presentation, examining the school bus, practicing their breaching techniques and rescue procedures. This often includes a final training with live fire into the (empty) school bus.

A law enforcement officer from Arizona and I taught a class on breaching and shooting into a school bus at the Minnesota Security and Terrorism Emergency Preparedness (M-STEP) conference. This was for law enforcement only.

Attended the M-STEP 2 day annual conference 6 times.

Developed a 4 hour presentation on the school attack at Beslan, Russia, from the book, Terror In Beslan, by John Giduck. John gave me his permission for this presentation and has given me personal insights to the incident. This has been presented at many state and national conferences for the school bus industry, some in shorter form.

As a school bus expert I am comfortable and confident in my work. I have worked as an expert witness for law firms in many states, involving school bus manufacturing, school bus maintenance, and school bus crashes. I have a very good understanding of school buses and equipment in general, and the operations of a transportation department. If I can be of service to your firm, please contact me.

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