



Texas Association for Pupil Transportation

2020-2021

Initial Slate of Candidates

January 31, 2020

Kayne M. Smith, Ed.D.

Candidate for President

TAPT family,

My name is Kayne Smith and I am the Director of Transportation for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD and your President-Elect for TAPT for 2019-2020. I started as a school bus driver and have been afforded many opportunities in my career for growth and advancement. This is due in large part to the educational and networking opportunities I received with TAPT. It is my goal as your President to continue to expand these opportunities, so others may be as fortunate as I have been to pursue professional goals.

I have served on the Executive Committee for TAPT for three years – two as Parliamentarian and as President-Elect for 2019-2020. I received my TAPT Official Certification in 2008 and have been an instructor in many of our professional development courses since then. I have also served as the Legislative Committee Chairperson since 2016 and as a member of the Professional Development Committee since 2018. None of this would have been possible without the continued mentoring and support from countless individuals. As your President, I will continue to work diligently to serve you, our organization, and our industry to pursue growth and expanded opportunities for all in our industry.

I received my Doctor of Education with Texas A&M University-Commerce in May 2015, with my dissertation topic focused on school district liability in pupil transportation in Texas. I hold a master's in education from LeTourneau University and my bachelor's from Lamar University. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Emily, and sons, Henry and Eli, watching and playing sports, cycling, reading, and taking road trips.

As your President, I will work to ensure our mission in TAPT is fulfilled. TAPT's mission is to "encourage the exchange of ideas and cooperation between transportation departments across the Lone Star State." Our organization was founded for this exchange of ideas and education, and it will be my focus to continue a commitment of excellence for our organization based on camaraderie, trust, education, and collaboration.

Thank you,

Kayne M. Smith, Ed.D.



Josh A. Rice, M.S. CDPT

Candidate for President-Elect

Hello TAPT Family!

My name is Josh Rice, and I am running for the office of President-Elect for the 2020-21 school year. TAPT is a great organization that is here to serve EVERY school district in the State of Texas regardless of your district's size. We are all in transportation to ensure that EVERY student is transported in the safest manner possible. Education Begins with Transportation, and we should constantly strive to be the best that we can be in this industry. I appreciate EVERY vote out there, and I promise to represent this organization to the best of my ability and move us into the future.



I am currently the Director of Transportation for Klein ISD and have been in student transportation for 19 years. I started my career in Nacogdoches ISD, as a driver, trainer, and operations manager. I have also been the Director of Transportation for Channelview ISD and New Caney ISD, as well as an Account Manager for Thomas Bus Gulf Coast.

I am a certification instructor with TAPT and have taught many courses over the years. I also earned my Trainer, Supervisor, and Official certification through TAPT. I am proud to say that I was the first in the state to achieve the "Master Official" certification. In addition, I have received my NAPT designation as Certified Director of Pupil Transportation and teach Professional Development courses with NAPT as well.

I am currently serving as the treasurer for TAPT from 2018-2020. This role has given me the knowledge of the organization's finances, and an outlook into where we can go in the future. I am a Past President for the Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation, where I also served as Vice President and President-Elect. I have also served regionally and at the state level for the Bus Roadeo committee. I have presented numerous workshops over the years for TAPT, and often speak nationally at various conferences. I am an Academy Instructor for Region IV's Driver Trainer Academy and have a true passion for training others!

I graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, and from Abilene Christian University with a Master of Science in Organizational and Human Resource Development. I am a licensed nurse and worked earlier in my career in the trauma division of the Emergency Room. I am a Texas Peace Officer, holding an Intermediate Certification, currently assigned as a Reserve Sergeant/Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

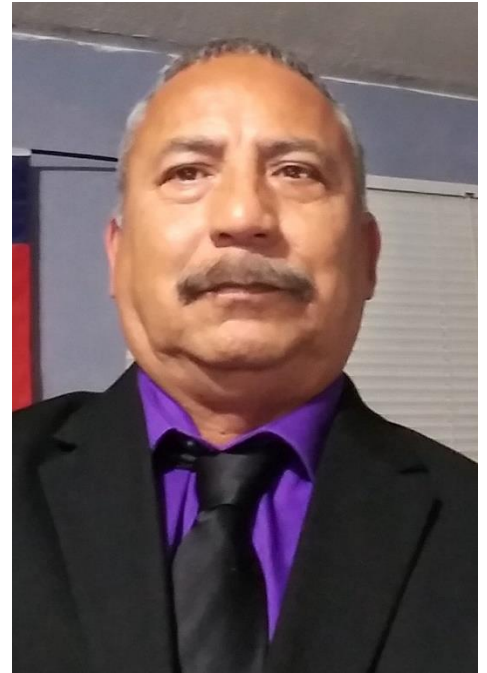
I am married to my wife Amanda, and we have two wonderful kids named Kreegan and Kashton. This was Kreegan's first year in school, and Kashton is still just a baby! I love spending time with my family at home, as well as my TAPT family. I appreciate your support and hope to serve you in the future!

Rey Sanchez

Candidate for President-Elect

Rey Sanchez is the Operations and Transportation Director for Santa Maria ISD. Rey was born in the City of Hidalgo, Texas. Rey began his love of driving when he joined the family business of agriculture truck driving. After a few years Rey decided he wanted to use his love of driving for a greater cause and began driving a school bus which he quickly became passionate about. The rest is history now as Rey has been in the pupil transportation industry for 35+ years.

Rey has served as an Instructor and Safety Consultant for Region 1 for 18 years. He is also an Operation Lifesaver and School Bus Watch presenter. Rey has a passion for Special Education Transportation and has served as the Special Needs Roadeo Chairman for TAPT for many years. In addition he has held various positions of the Executive Committee of TAPT.



Patricia Almaraz

Candidate for Secretary

My name is Patricia Almaraz and I am currently seeking your vote for the position of Secretary position with TAPT for the 2020-2021 term. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas of where I attended and completed my secondary level education at Spring Branch ISD. Currently, I reside in the New Caney/ Porter area and work for Channelview ISD in the capacity of Director of Transportation. I am the mother of 4 beautiful daughters who continuously inspire me to work hard and fulfill my goals in every aspect of life.

My journey began in the summer of 2014 as a school bus driver with New Caney ISD. Within a few months, I embraced an extraordinary passion for pupil transportation and the BIG YELLOW BUS. After completion of my first year as a school bus driver, I registered and completed the Trainer Academy administered by the Region IV Training Center and completed several TAPT courses in pursuit of obtaining my Master Official Certificate. Upon returning for my second year with New Caney ISD, I interviewed and earned the auxiliary sub driver's position.

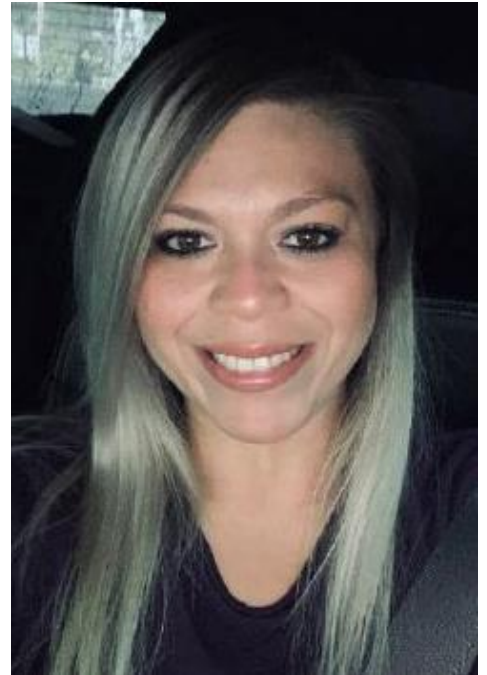
My desire and drive to achieve excellence within pupil transportation was rapidly growing. At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, I applied and was accepted for the internship program with New Caney ISD. The intern program provided me with an opportunity to interview for the Area Coordinator position in Spring 2017 of which I was honored and ecstatic to be offered the job. I managed all personnel who are in the capacity of a sub driver, oversaw and implemented mid-day routes for pre-kindergarten program, and coordinated field trips for all schools and departments. With the encouragement and continued motivation of my transportation family, I took another leap of faith. I applied and was offered the position of director of transportation for Channelview ISD. It has been a rollercoaster ride for me, but I hope my leadership, passion and dedication not only shines, but lifts Channelview ISD to further greatness.

I have been a member of GCAPT and TAPT since October 2014, which has exposed me to many great leaders and networking opportunities. This remarkable organization has allowed me to acquire resources to further my continuing education and advance in the pupil transportation industry.

I'm currently enrolled in school and working towards obtaining my bachelor's degree. In marginal steps, I've accomplished various short-term goals and recently fulfilling a long term goal of becoming a director of transportation where my dedication and passion for transportation can help in the improvement of student transportation and continued success with drivers, children, and the community.

I have learned so much serving as your 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Historian, and I would like the opportunity to continue to expand my knowledge and serve once again on the TAPT Executive Committee as the Secretary.

I will forever prioritize the importance of transporting students safely as a school bus driver and bleed yellow as long as I have the physical and mental capacity to serve others. Transportation is my passion and I appreciate living and breathing it, every day!



Hector Silva

Candidate for Treasurer

- 27 year experience in pupil transportation
- Director of Transportation for 19 years (last eleven at College Station ISD)
- Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation President (2019-2020)
- Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Area 3 Director for the 2018-2020
- TAPT Professional Development Class Instructor
- Bachelor's Degree in Business/Management
- Master' Degree in Human Resources
- Department of Public Safety Third Party CDL Examiner
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension (TEEX) Train-the-trainer Instructor



Elisha Lorenz

Candidate for Historian

Elisha Lorenz is the Administrative Assistant at Belton ISD. She has been in her current position as Administrative Assistant with Belton ISD since October 2014 and is instrumental in the daily coordination of the department.

Elisha graduated from Lorena High School and after a few years at college began her transportation career as the District Transportation Clerk for Lorena ISD. Her duties ranged from submitting state reports to the installation of cameras on buses and everything in between. During her time with Lorena ISD, she served two terms as the Heart of Texas TAPT Secretary and President in 2018. Elisha has obtained the following Transportation Certifications through TAPT: Official, Supervisor, and Trainer. She has also acquired her Train-the-Trainer with TEEX, Vehicle Collision Investigation with TASBO, as well as, State Reporting with Region 12 ESC.

Elisha has accumulated a total of 21 years in pupil transportation and is currently the Secretary/Treasurer for the Heart of Texas TAPT. She has been married 25 years and has two children that she totally loves.

Elisha has a heart for big yellow buses and the cargo they carry. She is looking forward to this next year and would appreciate the opportunity to represent all of you as Historian for TAPT.



Caleb Williams

Candidate for Historian

Caleb Williams is the Assistant Director of Transportation for College Station ISD. He has worked in the Pupil Transportation industry for 16 years. Caleb holds a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University, has a Master Official certification, and is a TAPT professional development course instructor. He has a passion for integrating technology into the Pupil Transportation industry, and educating others about Special Needs transportation.



Caleb Hidalgo

Candidate for Area 1 Director

Hello everyone. My name is Caleb Hidalgo and I am running for Area 1 Director. I am currently the Director of Transportation for Canyon ISD.

I got my start in education at Highland Park ISD as PC/LAN Technician in 2012. I served in that role for 2 years and then became Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Accounts Payable Clerk in 2014. I guess they liked the work I was doing because I soon also became Transportation Director and served in that role for the next 3 years. In 2018 I moved to Borger ISD as Transportation Director and remained there until December 2019 when I came to Canyon ISD.

Having this varied experience has been crucial in unlocking the potential of the talented individuals I've worked with in transportation. It truly is a team effort. I thoroughly enjoy working with drivers, route supervisors, shop personnel, teachers, coaches, and others in order to be sure we are always keeping the students' best interests as our priority.

In my spare time I enjoy cooking and eating all sorts of cuisines, watching anything sci-fi, and playing video games. Though, honestly, I also often find myself spending time researching more about pupil transportation, school finance, and just about anything else.

I have been an active member in the Panhandle chapter of TAPT where I previously served as President. I have been fortunate to live in West Texas for most of my life. I was born in Odessa, raised in Friona, and have worked in the Amarillo area for the majority of my career. It would be an honor to serve as your Area 1 Director.



John Craig

Candidate for Area 3 Director

I am currently the Director of Transportation for Brazosport I.S.D. and have been with the district for 10 years. Before that I served as the Director of Transportation for Columbia-Brazoria I.S.D. for two years, and was with Canyon I.S.D. prior to that for 12 years where I got my start in pupil transportation. While attending West Texas A & M in Canyon I started out as a special services monitor, became a driver for special services, then worked my way through the department as the Special Services Coordinator, to then become an Assistant Director. While in Canyon, I served on the Panhandle Association of Pupil Transportation Executive Committee serving in various roles before moving to Columbia-Brazoria. I am currently a member with GCAPT, and hold my Officials Certification with T.A.P.T.



I have to say that I am truly blessed. Brandy, my best friend, and I have been married for 18 years. We have 4 children, 3 boys and 1 girl. During this time I've been active in getting to coach and watch my children in their various activities such as baseball, etc.

I was fortunate and extremely lucky that I got to work with and be mentored by the likes of Bill Powell and Kirk Self while at Canyon. I consider so many others through this organization mentors that I have been able to establish incredible relationships with throughout the years as I can contact them without hesitation and know they are there to support and assist me. That is the greatest part of this organization; even those I don't know are so willing to provide guidance and support when it is needed. There is only one thing greater than that, and that is having the opportunity to make a difference in the life of children. So often we are behind the scenes doing things, but what we do is so impactful and so important. When it is all said and done, and if there is at least one student or employee that I was able to make a positive impact on, then I would consider my life successful.

I would appreciate the opportunity and will work to continue to make positive impacts on both those that serve in pupil transportation like yourselves, as well as those children being served by this organization as Area 3 Director. Thank you for all you do for this great organization and more importantly our children.

Bennie Huckabay

Candidate for Area 3 Director

Greetings to all!!!

I am Bennie Huckabay, Transportation Site Supervisor with Beaumont I.S.D.

I am running for the office of Area 3 Director. I have been involved with pupil transportation since August 1990, and will start my 29th year in the industry, all of it being with Beaumont ISD.

I started out as bus driver, field trip driver, moved into the shop as Utility Helper, was promoted to Shop Manager, Transportation Supervisor of Special Services, Transportation Supervisor – Safety & Training, and I am now Transportation Site Supervisor.

At first, I wasn't sure if this was the career for me, but after learning how to drive a bus, my blood turned yellow!! I have competed in numerous school bus safety road-e-o's, with my best accomplishment coming in 2008. I placed 2nd at regional competition, 1st at state competition, and drove a bus in Calgary Canada for the international competition where I placed 12th.

When I do get spare time away from work, I enjoy the beach, lake, Astros games, Cowboys games, Longhorn football, going to Port Neches-Groves football games, and spending time with family. I love anything to do with Star Wars, and movie musicals, and musical theater. My 2 favorite cities to visit are Galveston, and New Orleans, and I try to visit as often as possible.

There honestly isn't a day that goes by that I'm not thinking about ways to make my department and this industry better. I love what I do because every day is a new challenge and a new experience. I was told by my 1st director that this is the only job that is different, every day you come to it. I didn't understand what he meant until years later, and boy was he right!! I can't think of anything I would rather be doing, than what I do now. It is the most stressful, but rewarding job I have ever had.

I hope to receive your vote for Area 3 Director. I believe I have what it takes to do the job right, like so many before me have done.

Thank You and God Bless,

Bennie Huckabay



Angel Kersten

Candidate for Area 3 Director

Hello TAPT Members!

I moved to Texas in 1998, for those of you born and raised here, “I got here as fast as I could”. I have been so fortunate to build a career in an industry that has and continues to build its entire foundation around safety.

I obtained my Associates Degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. I graduated from Ashford University with a Bachelor of Arts in 2011. I am currently employed as the Transportation Director with Angleton ISD, a position that I am able to effectively fulfill for my district because of this organization and all it has taught me. I have been in the Transportation industry since 2004. I appreciate all of the different aspects of what makes a Transportation Department successful and look forward to many more years in this industry.



I had the pleasure of serving as a Committee Member for the Gulf Coast Chapter for Pupil Transportation as the Secretary, Vice-President, President-Elect, President and ending my tenure as the Past-President. I still volunteer and help out in different capacities for School Bus Road-e-o at the District, Regional and State Level.

I have served on the State Executive Committee as Historian, Parliamentarian and Secretary at different points during the past 6 years. I love all aspects of this Transportation family that I was given the opportunity to be a part of and to have been guided by so many others that have made this their passion, not just a job, as they continue on this path to make the “Yellow” School bus the safest form of transportation for students in this Country. It is this passion for safety that compels me to want to continue to serve this organization and help encourage other professionals as I have been encouraged and guided.

I would like to ask for the members of TAPT in Area 3 to consider voting for me to represent them as Area 3 Director on the Executive Committee for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Thanks for your support!

Shane Brummett

Candidate for Business Associate Director

My parents were teachers/administrators. I grew up in Banquete (outside Corpus Christi) and Richmond, Texas. Before I was old enough to earn money, I spent some summers cleaning buses for free for my dad. He was Assistant Transportation Director of Lamar CISD at the time. I graduated from Lamar Consolidated HS in 1988. I graduated from Howard Payne University in 1993. My first job was teaching in Lamar Consolidated ISD. I obtained my bus driving credentials that year and drove a morning and afternoon route when I wasn't coaching a UIL sport. From 1994-1996, I taught and coached at Elsie HS in Alief ISD. I didn't drive a bus those two years because the district supplied the drivers.

From 1996-2003, I was a teacher/coach in Katy ISD. I drove a bus to all my sporting events. I received my Master's Degree from Prairie View A&M in 1999. From 2004-2016, I was an assistant principal in Katy. I maintained my bus certification, and drove extra-curricular events for my school. In 2016, I became an Account Manager for Thomas Bus Gulf Coast. I still keep my bus driver certification current, thanks to the Region 4 online training.



Dwight Gleaves

Candidate for Business Associate Director

I started my association with Hydrotex in February of 1964 and have served the company in many capacities over the years. While working in Texas, I started visiting with School Transportation Facilities and found it was very unique. I discovered that it was very friendly and family oriented. A few years following my first conference I began to feel like I was a part of that family. What really gave me confirmation was in 1999/2000 when I was given the Vendor Honoree award.

Hydrotex has been a vendor and supporter of TAPT for over Forty years. I personally have been involved with TAPT as a vendor, member and supporter since 1989.

I attended the first meeting for what is now known as TASBT and have supported the technicians since their first meeting. Hydrotex and I initiated the Texas Technician and Supervisor Awards in 1995 to recognize excellence in the transportation maintenance facilities. Scholarships were awarded to provide educational programs for those nominated and receiving those awards. We transitioned that scholarship and award for Texas Best winners (Technician and Inspector) to provide scholarships to attend and compete in NAPT's Americas Best Skills Competition. I served on the TAPT Vendor Committee in 2010, 2011, 2015 and 2015.

For the last 6 years I have served as the Affiliate Member Director for the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) and was elected in November 2019 to serve another two (2) year term in that position.

Having served on the NAPT Board and worked with our Vendors (Business Partners) I feel that I would bring a "lot to the table" as the Business Associate Director for TAPT.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to serve.

