

# RSU 9 Transportation & Custodial UPDATE

## December 2023

**Richard Joseph Jr**

Director of Transportation and Custodial Services

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Driver Appreciation Day celebrated on October 20th.

A great day had by all, food, cards from students, signs & banners at schools, swag and more food. A big thank you to all our support staff.



### Interesting facts:

Why are school buses yellow? Frank W Cyr, best known as “The father of the yellow school bus.” He was a professor at Teachers College at Columbia University, and in 1939, he put together a conference focused on the school bus. He brought in teachers, transportation experts, engineers, and yes, paint specialists. Together they came up with 42 pages worth of school bus regulations, among them a yellow hue. They decided on yellow because black letters were the easiest to see with a yellow background, and yellow stood out even in bad weather. In fact, the color is now officially known as “national school bus glossy yellow.”

Nationally, 26 million children in the U.S. take 480,000 buses to and from school each day.

Maine transports about 140,000 children on 3,000 school buses by 2,000 school bus drivers over 30 million miles.

RSU9 Yellow & White buses, vans and cars traveled 588,000 miles.

Photo taken by Kathi Weeks on Thursday morning, November 9th at 6:20am. What a beautiful way to start the day.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM THE LAND OF OZ**

**(BUS GARAGE) Anja Mutschin, Sandra Karkos-Powers and Nicole Iburguen .**



**Basil Mosher pointing at the lights on our new trip bus. RSU9 was one of two districts selected in Maine trying them out and giving feedback to Blue Bird. lights are activated when the student door opens & closes at student stops. Driver's and students really like how the lights brighten up the area on the side and front of the bus making it safer loading & unloading students. Blue Bird will be adding this safety feature standard going forward thanks to all the positive feedback.**

**District WorkShop Day held on October 6th. Custodians did training on ladder safety, lifting properly, and custodial ergonomics related to properly carrying vacuums, pushing custodial carts, cleaning surfaces. Drivers had training on Driver Dynamics. The class was geared for the Bus driver and was much appreciated and was well received.**

**Support staff update: Current open positions. Mechanic, Bus Aide, and 5hr Custodian.**