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Vacaville Unified School District Receives First-Ever Battery Electric Bus

For Children, Schools & Planet: Solano County's first electric school bus has arrived!

VACAVILLE, Calif. – The Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) received its first of three electric buses from Lion Electric on November 20, 2020. The district is expecting the other two buses during summer of 2021. Each electric bus will replace a diesel bus in the fleet. The goal is to procure 10 electric buses in the next 5 years.

"The clean transportation revolution is not a distant dream — it's happening throughout California right now and to be the first school district in Solano County shows the effort our district is putting towards being a community leader for our planet," VUSD's Assistant Superintendent Kelly Burks said. "Seeing the first zero-emission bus picking up and dropping off students will bring us one step closer to cleaner air and ultimately a healthier community."

"This commitment by the Vacaville Unified School District to make the move to all-electric school transportation demonstrates the district's leadership and dedication to the health of the local community," said Nate Baguio, Vice President of Sales for Lion Electric, USA. "Electrifying their fleet will allow Vacaville USD to save on maintenance and energy costs, and ultimately put more money back into their classrooms. We look forward to seeing the buses in service and are confident it will mark a positive change for the community."

"This project highlights the partnership between the Sac Metro Air District and the Yolo-Solano AQMD to improve the air quality and the health of those living in our region," said Sac Metro Air District Chair Eric Guerra. "By replacing an old, polluting school bus with an all-electric zero emission bus, diesel exhaust, toxic air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. This greatly benefits our students, and those living and working along the bus route."

The bus was built by Lion Electric, a North American leader in electric transportation and designs, builds and assembles all its vehicles' components, including chassis, battery packs, truck cabins and bus bodies.

Lion has over 300 vehicles on the road today, with 6 million all-electric miles driven, and the capacity to produce up to 2,500 vehicles per year in its North American manufacturing facility. Lion believes that transitioning to all-electric vehicles will lead to major improvements in our society, environment and overall quality of life.

Customer features include:

- 39.6-foot bus will seat 48 students plus three wheelchairs
- ADA compliant bus with wheelchair lift
- 100 miles of range on a single charge

In addition, the bus offers reduced noise pollution for residents and businesses, and a quieter, more relaxing ride for students. Music starts playing once the electric bus slows to a certain speed. This helps alert everyone around including pedestrians to look out for students loading and unloading the electric bus.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Vacaville Unified School District postponed the in person announcement of the electric bus. To stay updated on future announcements about VUSD's growing electric bus fleet email pio@vacavilleusd.org

B-Roll, soundbites, and photos of the electric bus can be found at: https://bit.ly/VUSD_Electric_Bus_Media

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