VSBA Newsletter

2017 ISSUE 4

VSBA President
Robert L. Hundley, Jr.
Hanover County School Board

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Accountability and School Accreditation Update
Page 3

VSBA Business Honor Roll
Page 6&7

Ask the Legal Expert
Page 7

Spotlight on Chesterfield County Public Schools
Page 8

Upcoming Events
Page 9

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 18, 2017
Superintendent Evaluation Workshop

June 2, 2017
School Law Conference

July 17, 2017
VSBA Orientations

July 18, 2017
VSBA Conference on Education

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this message finds each of you well and enjoying a wide selection of weather options for this time of year. I have just this week shared greetings on your behalf with the VASS Annual Conference in Roanoke where Dr. Aaron Spence, of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, was recognized as the Superintendent of the Year. Congratulations to Dr. Spence and to the Virginia Beach Board; I attended one of your presentations at NSBA this year in Denver and was very impressed with all that you are doing to promote student success.

Our Regional Spring Network Forums have come to an end; the final one, the Tidewater Region's, was held at Surry County High School on May 1. It has been quite an honor and privilege for me to be with you at these collaborative sessions. I truly believe that we are much more vital and successful organizations as we continue to find ways to partner with each other. That was on full display at our Tidewater Regional event, as the Regional planning team from Surry worked closely with the Isle of Wight Board in order to provide the student performance for the Forum which was an outstanding jazz ensemble which played before, during, and following dinner. The student talent was superb, and the teacher's obvious passion for his art was thoroughly communicated through his students.

The forum calendar started with the Eastern Region which held their event in Lancaster County at the Tides Inn. The forum included a student choral performance lead by a volunteer music coordinator. Her energy toward this vital component of her students' education was inspiring, and you could see the love of music she conveyed within her students.

The Blue Ridge forum was held in Franklin County in Rocky Mount at their Gereau Center. There we saw a student one act play performance that was incredible. The students delivered their lines without hesitation and provided an equity message that was very meaningful to me, and from the standing ovation they received, apparently to many others that were in attendance.

The Valley forum was held in Buena Vista City where we were treated to a tour of their Wilford P. Ramsey Educational Center, a transformed series of street front businesses now serving as host to art exhibits, a weight room, instructional space, and other uses not yet imagined. High School students with aspirations of becoming teachers served as our tour guides, and the pride for the facility showed clearly within each of them. We also helped send off their soon to be state champion girls basketball team Lady Blues with a pep rally complete with cheer leaders and fire engines!

Hanover served as host for the Southside forum. On an afternoon that began with somewhat unexpected snow flurries, our VSBA members remained diligent by traveling to the northern most county of their region in not so favorable conditions. They provided great support to the Hanover student orchestra members who along with their outstanding conductor did not disappoint.

The Central Region forum was held at Charlottesville High School where were experienced an unbelievable display of student engagement at the facility's STEM laboratory space. We were treated to tours of their SIGMA Lab space led by students who taught us about their favorite club called BACON - Best All-around Club of Nerds.

The Northeastern Region held their event at Fairfax High School. Broadway style singing performances highlighted our event there. Again, in this instance, the teacher's passion for his craft was demonstrated masterfully by the students.

Lynchburg City and Heritage High School served as host for the Southern Region's forum. Student tours of their new school revealed a great pride for their community, and we enjoyed the orchestra students' performance before dinner.

A drive to Washington County is always incredibly scenic, and the Southwestern Region's hospitality was front and center at their forum held at the

(continued on page 4)

Gina G. Patterson
VSBA Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Role of the School Board Chairman

From time to time I will receive calls from members wanting to know exactly what is the role of the board chairman compared to the rest of the school board members. What exactly is the role of the board chairman? The board chairman holds no additional power, just added responsibilities. The chairman is still a voting member of the board, and gets one vote like all other members.

In most divisions, the chairman sets agenda items with the superintendent (and in some cases the vice-chairman). The board chairman is also the bridge between board & superintendent. The chairman is typically the voice of the board at meetings & with the media. At times, the chairman is the team builder and mediator on board issues. In each division, the role of the chairman varies slightly, but there are several things most efficient school board chairmen have in common.

Some skills of a good school board chairman:

- Works well with others
- Good listener
- Effective communicator
- Trustworthy
- Understands Parliamentary Procedure and uses it well
- Fair-minded
- Asks good questions
- Well prepared for meetings
- Recognizes strengths of others
- Can remain calm during heated discussions
- Understands the governing role of board chair/board vs. administrative role of superintendent
- Willingness to take on additional responsibilities

Team Builder/Leader:

- Communicate openly, effectively, and thoroughly
- Set goals and accountability measures for the board together
- Don't exhibit any preferential treatment towards any member of the board
- Make certain you have no hidden agendas
- Encourage good, open, productive discussions
- Keep board business board business—don't let the discussions get personal
- Encourage team approach with working with superintendent

Planner:

- Coordinate with superintendent on agenda building
- Work with superintendent and board to keep district focused on moving ahead (building needs, etc.)
- Hold yearly board retreats to review and adjust goals and objectives

Organizer:

- Managing the board meeting
- Understanding Parliamentary procedure
- Possess a working knowledge of board policy
- Understand board's role as a whole

Spokesperson:

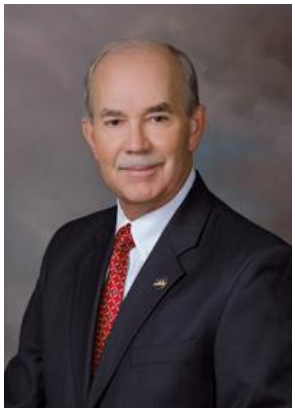
- Media Relations
- Speaking on behalf of the board
- Understand FOIA

Twice a year the VSBA holds a day long orientation for school board chairmen. The next session will be July 17 at the Richmond Marriott. Please click here for additional information.

As always, VSBA is just a phone call away. Please do not hesitate to call us at 1-800-446-8722 should you have any questions or need any assistance. Thank you for all that you do for Virginia's public schools.

Accountability and School Accreditation Update

By Dr. Steven R. Staples, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction



Dr. Steven R. Staples
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Over the past three months, I have had the pleasure of attending several of your VSBA regional meetings to discuss the Board of Education's work on accountability and school accreditation. Virginia's school accountability system establishes the Commonwealth's expectations and priorities for public schools. The system also establishes a methodology to ensure educational effectiveness and to direct levels of support and intervention for distressed schools, through the Standards of Quality and the regulations for school accreditation, and to provide a standardized reporting system to inform the public and stakeholders.

Originally, school accreditation in Virginia was an input-based system, meaning accreditation was determined by each school meeting established minimum standards for staffing, facilities, textbooks, and other resources, generally on a per pupil basis. About twenty years ago, the accreditation system was reformed to focus on outcomes, mainly student achievement through pass rates on state SOL standardized tests.

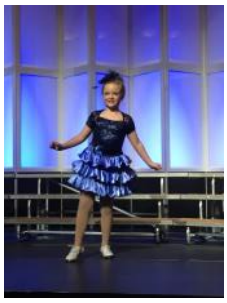
While our current system has many benefits, there were also several unintended outcomes, including the laser-like focus on SOL test results as the only priority for schools. To address these unintended outcomes, the Board has begun another extensive review of the accreditation system, with the purpose of providing a more comprehensive picture of school quality that drives continuous improvement for all, not just some, schools. The Board's review, through its Committee on School and Division Accountability, also targets improved alignment of state accreditation with the accountability requirements in the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The Board's discussions on school accreditation have centered on using multiple indicators of school quality (not just SOL test outcomes) on a matrix-based system that would emphasize both academic outcomes and opportunities for all students to learn. Over the past few months, the Board has taken an in-depth look at several possible indicators, including student achievement, achievement gaps, graduation rates, drop-out rates, an index of college and career readiness, and rates of chronic absenteeism. Under this matrix style system, schools would be held accountable for each indicator on the matrix. Outcomes would be displayed by one of three color-coded performance levels, from Level One-Green (at or above standard) to Level Three-Red (below standard). Performance levels would illustrate a school's status for each school quality indicator; there would be no single, A-F style performance level for a school. Displaying outcomes on each indicator offers the opportunity for schools to target specific areas for improvement. Additionally, performance levels will help inform and target technical assistance and school improvement resources from the Virginia Department of Education. Presenting accountability information in this manner builds on the work already implemented by the School Quality Profiles and provides a more comprehensive, easy to interpret picture of school quality that better informs communities about the work in schools.

Currently the Board is working to finalize the indicators for the matrix accreditation system, including the indicators required under ESSA. It is anticipated that the Board will finalize their indicator selection at their June 21-22 meeting and submit their revisions to the *Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* through the proposed stage of the Administrative Process Act. This summer, the Board will host a series of public hearings across the state to continue to engage with and hear directly from parents, teachers, school board members, students, and other constituents. Those public hearings are still in the planning process but will be held in Fairfax, Wytheville, Harrisonburg, Mecklenburg, and Virginia Beach. Once the public hearing dates have been finalized, the full schedule will be shared with you and VSBA.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with many of you in your regions to share an update on this important work underway by the State Board. We hope that you will continue to engage with this effort, either through monthly State Board meetings, summer public hearings, or by sending your ideas or suggestions to BOE@doe.virginia.gov. To learn more about the Board's work on accountability and school accreditation, please visit http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/committees_standing/accountability/index.shtml.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)



Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. There we were treated to a wonderful chorus of students from a local elementary school, although the highlight of the evening may have been the clogging demonstration by a beautifully talented first grader!

At almost all of these forums we have heard an outstanding message from our State Superintendent, Dr. Steve Staples, or in some instances, his assistant, Dr. Steve Constantino. They have shared with our school board members the work currently underway by the State Board of Education with respect to the reform of our current school accreditation process and how important our input is to the remaining work. The state Board is creating an outside the box accreditation framework that sounds exciting, challenging, and will go a long way toward showcasing the great achievements of our schools while pointing out best practices that will help all schools along a path of continuous improvement. Please be on the lookout for public hearings to be held this summer throughout the state by the State Board and try to attend one. They really do want to hear from you.

It was truly an honor for me to be welcomed so warmly at each of your forums. These showcases of success provide a real testament to the hard and effective work each of you are about within your local boards. I encourage you to keep looking for ways you can improve the opportunities for students and for those collaborative partnerships with other boards, businesses, and organizations whose goals are similarly aligned. It's a pleasure to serve you.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

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2017 Spring Regional Forums

Miss a webinar?

No problem!

VSBA webinars are available "on demand" to fit your schedule.

For details, contact Amanda Leonard coordinator of board development, at aleonard@vsba.org or visit http://www.vsba.org/meetings_conferences/webinars_on_demand/

VSBA Hot Topic Conferences

Two Hot Topics conferences were held this spring that featured topics including how school boards make a difference in student achievement, a discussion on teacher shortages in Virginia, and the importance of school board support when it comes to risk management. Thank you to all who attended these conferences.

NEW Video recordings of the April and May VSBA Hot Topic Conferences will be available for those who were unable to attend. Please be on the lookout for additional information on how to purchase these recordings.

VSBA Affiliate Member Profiles

In each issue of the VSBA newsletter, we will feature three VSBA Affiliate Members. Thank you for your support of VSBA and Virginia's public education system.

HBA Architecture & Interior Design, Inc.

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Barry Wilhelm
Phone: (804) 486-1005
Email: barry.wilhelm@schneider-electric.com
Website: http://www.se-enable.com/

Visit http://www.vsba.org/resources/affiliates/affiliate_member_program/ for a complete list of VSBA's Affiliate Members.

2017 VSBA BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

Local businesses have the power to shape community attitudes about public schools, and the VSBA Business Honor Roll is a way for local school divisions to recognize local businesses for their support, especially as schools face increasing budget uncertainty. The Business Honor Roll helps divisions say "thank you" for their vital contributions. Congratulations to the following businesses that were recognized!

Alleghany County
LewisGale Hospital Alleghany
WestRock

Bath County
BARC Electric Co-Op
The Omni Homestead Hotel

Clarke County
Apple Federal Credit Union
Valley Health

Culpeper County
Culpeper Chamber of Commerce

Cumberland County
Marion Brothers Logging, Inc.

Fairfax City
29 Diner
National Asphalt
Wegmans of Fairfax

Fairfax County
Capital One
CroppMetcalfe
Virginia Tire and Auto

Falls Church City
Foxes Music
Orange Twist
The Local Market

Floyd County
Clark Gas & Oil Company
Skyline National Bank
Wills Ridge Supply, Inc.

Frederick County
American Woodmark Corporation

Fredericksburg City
Allergy Partners of Fredericksburg
Chick-fil-A (Central Park)

Giles County
PEMTEL
Carilion Giles Community Hospital

Gloucester County
Bayport Credit Union
Colonial Awards
Courthouse Restaurant

Goochland County
Absolute Asphalt
Luck Stone
Richmond Area Municipal Contractor's Association

Hampton City
JC Penney at Peninsula Town Center

Henry County
Eastman Chemical
Chick-fil-A
Nelson Auto Group

Isle of Wight County
Farmers Bank
Liebherr
Smithfield Foods

King William County
Broadus Baptist Church
Subway – King William
King William Florist

Loudoun County
NOVA Parks
K2M
National Conference Center

Madison County
MWP Supply

Manassas City
Bookworm Central
Heltzel Architects
SWIFT

Martinsville City
Martinsville Speedway
S&K Office Products

Mathews County
Chick-fil-A of Gloucester
M&M Building Supply

Mecklenburg County
Benchmark Community Bank
Crop Production Services
Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative

Middlesex County
Debbie's Family Restaurant
C & F Bank, Saluda Branch
7-11, Hartfield Location

Montgomery County
Shelor Motor Mile
Kroontje Health Care Center
New River Community College

Norton City
Doughmakers Pizza
A&A Security
Dairy Queen

Orange County
Reynolds Subaru
Tiger Fuel Company

Petersburg City
City and School Partnership
Dominion Virginia Power
Rolls-Royce Crosspointe

Prince George County
Roma's Restaurant
Sebera's
The Bank of Southside Virginia

Prince William County
Bookworm Central
Micron Technology
Potomac Pediatric Dentistry

Pulaski County
First Bank and Trust, Fairlawn Branch
Nordsom XALOY
Volvo

Radford City
Ameriprise Financial
BT's
Sal's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria

Richmond City
Altria
Capital One
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Rockbridge County
Magic City for Lexington
Rockbridge Area YMCA
Sirrah, LLC

Rockingham County
Blue Ribbon Nursery and Landscaping
Subway (Broadway)

Spotsylvania County
Horace Mann Insurance
Parrish Learning Zone
Sonic Drive-In

Staunton City
Chili's
Frontier Culture Museum
VFW Post 2216

Sussex County
Davis Oil Company, Inc.

Warren County
Cline Construction, Inc.
Fox's Pizza Den
Warren County Sheriff's Office

West Point Town
Fulcrum Concepts LLC
State Farm Insurance
The Auto Spa of West Point

(continued on page 7)

2017 VSBA BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

(continued from page 6)

Williamsburg-James City
Ball Corporation
Power House Dance
Trader Joe's

Winchester City
Habitat for Humanity of
Winchester-Frederick-Clarke

York County
Kingmor Supply, Inc.
Village Events, Ltd
Wells Fargo Advisors LLC

Ask the Legal Expert

Q. How long must school board records be maintained?

A. It depends. Different records must be retained for different lengths of time. Each school division is required to have a records officer who is familiar with the records retention rules established by the Library of Virginia. Every school board member should know who the division's public records officer is.

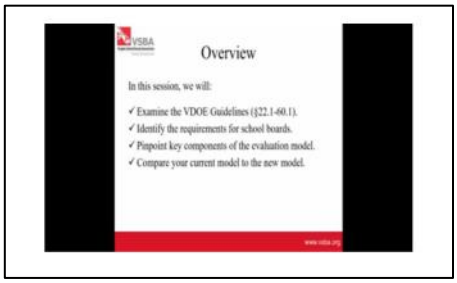
See previous "Ask the Legal Experts" online at http://www.vsba.org/services/legal_services/ask_the_experts/

VSBA Welcomes Amanda Leonard

Please join us in welcoming Amanda Leonard who is joining VSBA as the coordinator of board development.

Superintendent Evaluation Workshop Now Available On-Demand

The popular VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop is now available online so you may view the information at your convenience.



- What are the requirements?
- What is the difference between standards and indicators, and how will they be measured?
- Who establishes the cut scores for performance ratings?
- What types of student achievement goals can be used and how will they be rated?
- What level of goal achievement is required for a proficient rating?
- Are you prepared to use the revised evaluation model to evaluate your superintendent?

Contact Amanda Leonard coordinator of board development, at aleonard@vsba.org to register for the on-demand workshop.

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Division Spotlight: Chesterfield County Public Schools

In each newsletter VSBA will spotlight a recent initiative or best practice taking place in a school division in Virginia. If you have a story you would like to submit for inclusion in the spotlight section of the VSBA Newsletter, please contact Samantha Bosserman, director of communications and board development, for more information. We look forward to hearing about the great things going on in your divisions.

Is there an app for that?

Submitted by Amanda Love, Community Relations Officer, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Mobile apps are part of everyday life for so many. You can check the weather, track your health, look at your bank account, play games and so much more. You name it, there is likely an app for it. And, thanks to Capital One, students at one middle school in Chesterfield County are getting the chance to create their very own mobile app.

Providence Middle School students are expanding their knowledge of software development with the help of a program from Capital One. Members of the Capital One (C1) Coders Club meet with sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students from the school once a week to teach them how to write code for software development. The afterschool program is giving students an opportunity to learn about developing software in an engaging and fun environment. There is a significant workforce gap in the computer science and technology field with nearly 36,000 unfilled computer-science related positions in Virginia. Programs like this are providing students the exposure to this field and hopefully, sparking an interest in technology and computer science.

Through the hands-on program, students are learning how to develop games for applications on Android devices. The students not only have the opportunity to gain experience in software development, but they also are problem solving and will walk away from the experience with a fully-operating mobile app.

In 2014, Capital One created C1 Coders, a special 10-week coding curriculum for middle school students. The program is led by more than 1,000 Capital One volunteers that have helped 2,500 young students gain exposure to software engineering principles and practices. The program was originally launched in two schools in five communities, but it has increased now to 35 different schools across the U.S. Through the club, students have created more than 500 different mobile apps including everything from an app that scans barcodes of food packages to see if they contain allergens to a racing game where users can compete against each other.

The program is part of Capital One's push to increase awareness of technology by partnering with schools to focus on software engineering. An emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning has been at the forefront in so many schools throughout the last several years. Chesterfield County Public Schools knows the importance of these disciplines and continues to look for new and innovative ways to get students excited and learning. Through this partnership, Chesterfield County Public Schools and Capital One are truly making a difference in these students' lives and giving them a skills set in software engineering that will help them as they start high school and move into college and their future careers. The tutoring program is expanding to eight cities throughout the U.S. and will ultimately impact more than 3,000 students nationwide by the end of 2017.

The experience has been positive for the Chesterfield County Public Schools students. For more information, check out this video about the Providence Middle School Coders Club at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTuauUblzYQ

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UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

May 17, 2017

VSBA Webinar: Improving Education Services for Children and Youth with ASD in Public School Divisions through VCU Autism Center for Excellence

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: As autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has moved from a rare disability to become the 4th most common disability in Virginia, school districts and the Virginia Department of Education have struggled to keep pace with the needs of this heterogeneous population. In this webinar, we present a comprehensive, statewide systems change model that implements comprehensive online and live training combined with school division specific strategic planning. We will also present examples of the services provided through the Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence using the Bottom–up/Top-down model.

May 18, 2017

VSBA Superintendent Evaluation Workshop

LOCATION: VSBA Offices, Charlottesville

DETAIL: The Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Superintendents developed by the Virginia Department of Education provide a wealth of information regarding the requirements. Filtering through this document to determine what is required and what is optional requires focused attention. For some, the changes to their current evaluation model may be minor, while others face major revisions in order to be in compliance with the regulations. This workshop is designed to provide small group support to superintendents and board members responsible for updating their evaluation model. Participants will have the opportunity to review the guidelines in detail and then use them as they draft their own models. Individual consultation and support will be provided throughout the session as participants work on their revisions.

June 2, 2017

VSBA School Law Conference

LOCATION: Short Pump Hilton, Richmond

DETAIL: Your school division needs you, your superintendent, and your attorney to be at the 2017 VSBA Law Conference. Why? Because many of the decisions you make have legal implications that will impact will impact your school division for years to come.

Learn more about the new grievance regulations, listen to commentary on the federal legal issues for school boards, learn about website accessibility and your school division, and hear an update on General Assembly bills and how they impact your local division.

Sponsored by: SANDS ANDERSON

July 17, 2017

VSBA Orientation for New School Board Members and Superintendents

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Becoming a new school board member or superintendent is an honor and a privilege. Enjoy a successful and less stressful transition by attending the VSBA Orientation for New Board Members & Superintendents. Many important topics will be covered, including school law, parliamentary procedure, budgets, board/superintendent roles, teamwork, and more. Don't miss this popular event, now with extended sessions, which is a "must" for all new board members and superintendents!

Sponsored by: SOURCE 4 TEACHERS Educational Staffing Solutions

July 17, 2017

VSBA Orientation Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Have you recently been selected as your school board's new chairman or vice-chairman? If so, don't miss the VSBA Orientation for New Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen, which has been especially designed to help you become more comfortable with your new role and responsibilities. Experts in a variety of areas will address many important topics, such as the legal authority of the chairman, handling media inquires, parliamentary procedure, optimizing the chair/superintendent relationship, and ethical considerations as a board chair. You will also have the opportunity to network with other new chairmen and vice-chairmen from across Virginia.

Sponsored by: SOURCE 4 TEACHERS Educational Staffing Solutions

July 18, 2017

VSBA Conference on Education

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Join hundreds of school division leaders from across Virginia at the 32nd annual VSBA Conference on Education. We are pleased to have Toney McNair, the 2017 Virginia Teacher of the Year for Chesapeake City Schools as the opening speaker this year! Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from over thirty mini-workshops highlighting successful practices in Virginia's school divisions. Participants will leave with many great insights and practical ideas. After the roundtable presentations, attendees will break into regional meetings to discuss pertinent issues coming up for their particular regions. This year the speaker is the Mayor of the City of Richmond.

Sponsored by: BCWH ARCHITECTURE INTERIORS LANDSCAPE CAMPUS PLANNING

2016-2017 VSBA Board of Directors

Not pictured: Scott Albrecht, Camilla Washington

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Virginia School Boards Association

MISSION STATEMENT
Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through leadership, advocacy and services.

VISION STATEMENT
VSBA is recognized and respected as an innovative leader in public education.

Rivanna Ridge Professional Building | 200 Hansen Road, Suite 2 | Charlottesville, VA 22911

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