



A Message from the Top...



Summer is here and I hope everyone will be able to take some time off with your families to refresh and renew. But don't forget about the Governor's Conference on Education that will be held on Tuesday, July 20, at the Marriott in Richmond.

This conference provides learning experiences for all of us based on the best practices of school districts from across the Commonwealth. I always come away inspired and impressed by the commitment and dedication of the staff and teachers in our local districts. We all are working extremely hard to meet the needs of our students. This conference gives us a wonderful opportunity to share our efforts.

Please join us in Richmond on July 20th for a great day of sharing and learning. For those new board members, Chairmen, and Superintendents VSBA is holding the New Chairmen/Board Member/Superintendent Orientation the day before at the Richmond Marriott. See you in Richmond!

JB

2010 VSBA

Legislative Award of Excellence Recipient



Since 1985, the Virginia School Boards Association has honored at least one legislator from each chamber of the General Assembly to receive the annual VSBA Award of Excellence. The purpose of the award is to recognize legislators or state officials who have worked diligently on behalf of public education and the VSBA. The Honorable Stephen D. Newman, Senator 23 Senatorial District, has been an influential and ranking member of the Senate Education and Health committee since 1996. He is a past chairman of the sub-committee on Public Education. During the 2010 session, Senator Newman was asked by the Governor to sponsor three major pieces of education legislation. These bills as originally introduced were controversial. Senator Newman being aware of this, asked the VSBA and other stakeholders to work with him to resolve difference. Through his leadership and willingness to compromise accord was reached. Senator Newman's statesmanlike handling of this issue won him the admiration from all involved.

The award will be presented during the 2010 Governor's Conference on Education on July 20 at the Richmond Marriott.

Virginia Freedom of Information Act

Conflict of Interests Act

Public Records Act

This is just a reminder that Division Superintendents are required to provide copies of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, and the Virginia Public Records Act to newly appointed or elected and re-appointed or re-elected board members **"within two weeks following election, re-election, appointment or re-appointment."** FOIA is found at *Va. Code §2.2-3700 et seq.*, the Conflict of Interests Act is found at *Va. Code §2.2-3100 et seq.*, and the Public Records Act is found at *Va. Code §42.1-76 et seq.* All three Acts may be accessed from the Legal Services section of the VSBA website (vsba.org). **All public officials, including school board members, must read and familiarize themselves with the provisions of these Acts.**

Superintendents should provide this information to board members who were elected at the recent election. This requirement is applicable to board members elected in November and May and throughout the year as vacancies and re-appointments occur.

If board members think they may have even the slightest possibility of a conflict of interest, they should contact their local school board attorney or the City/County Attorney immediately.

Please call (1-800-446-VSBA) if you have any questions regarding this information.

Call for

School Architecture Exhibits



Does your construction or renovation project have what it takes to be named in the 2010 VSBA Exhibition of School Architecture Awards as a Meritorious Design? Consider being a part of the Exhibit of School Architecture at the VSBA Annual Convention.

This exhibition highlights new construction and renovation projects in Virginia completed in the last year. School divisions interested in having their projects considered for the Award and displayed at this year's Convention should contact their architectural firm. The following themes are deemed critically important in the design of successful learning environments:

- LEARNING AMBIENCE
- EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY
- MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY
- SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
- CIVIC PRESENCE
- SUBTLE SECURITY

Contacts and payments for all entries are due by September 17. Project submission deadline is October 1, 2010.

Questions? E-mail Samantha@vsba.org.

2010 VSBA Media Honor Roll

Information packets, which include forms for naming media members to the Media Honor Roll, were recently mailed to board chairmen and superintendents. A signed resolution from the entire school board must come with the nomination forms. If you are working with a reporter who deserves Honor Roll recognition, your division can add the name(s) to the Honor Roll by passing a resolution and submitting the form to: Gina Patterson, Assistant Executive Director, Virginia School Boards Association, 200 Hansen Road, Suite 2, Charlottesville, VA 22911. Deadline for receipt of the form is August 1.

Changes Made to VSBA Academy Lineup and Credit System

At the March 26 VSBA Board of Directors meeting the 2013 VSBA Academy of Boardmanship was approved with several conferences missing from the lineup. It was recommended that due to local school board budget shortfalls the VSBA Academy schedule of meetings and conferences be shortened in 2011, 2012, and 2013, which would result in cost savings of more than \$300,000 per year in travel, lodging and registration fees for local school systems. The VSBA Board agreed unanimously and approved the revised 2011 and 2012 Academy schedules and the newly-developed 2013 schedule. **Please note that the 2010 Academy schedule remains the same!**

Removed from the lineup in 2011, 2012, and 2013 are the May Hot Topic Conference, the August Hot Topic Conference and the October Leadership Conference. While all are popular events, the content of these conferences can be absorbed each year into the remaining offerings of meetings and conferences. The VSBA Academy schedule is the internal list of meetings and conferences that is offered to board members each year to provide an opportunity to: 1) fulfill Standard 5 of the Standards of Quality which states, "each local school board shall require its members to participate annually in high-quality professional development activities at the state, local or national levels on governance, including, but not limited to, personnel, policies and practices, curriculum and instruction; use of data in planning and decision making and current issues in education as part of their service on the local board: (Section 22.1:253:15:5) and 2) build interest in and loyalty to the statewide organization that was founded to offer services to local school boards.

When the announcement of the revised schedules was made after the March 26 meeting, the VSBA office received a flood of calls about the VSBA Academy awards and credit system which leads to certificates and pins awarded to those who have earned recognition during each Academy year of July 1 – June 30. The VSBA staff immediately was gratified that board members want to be recognized for their attendance and adjusted the point system to increase the values of the remaining meetings and conferences. So the final word is that while our Academy offerings have been reduced during these tough economic times, you can still earn your Awards! It's a double win-win for board members and school boards! Thanks for support of YOUR association.

BC

2010 VSBA Academy Awards

Judges will meet and the presentations of awards will be at the VSBA Annual Convention in 2010 for the academy year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010. Official forms, which were mailed in May, plus other supporting materials must be received by the July 25 deadline. If you have questions or need nomination forms please call Barbara Coyle at the VSBA office at (800) 446-8722.

VSBA Board of Distinction

VSBA will seek to identify school boards to be designated as a Board of Distinction. Boards receiving this award may apply for it and must meet specific requirements in four key areas: planning, policy, promotion and board development. If eligible, the board will receive a plaque to hang on the wall of their boardroom designating the board as a "VSBA Board of Distinction". Designation as a "VSBA Board of Distinction" may be accomplished by the chairman completing and returning the VSBA Board of Directors' checklist. After two years the board may reapply for continued Board of Distinction status. A panel of judges reviews the criteria submitted and determines those awarded the VSBA Board of Distinction status.

VSBA School Board of the Year

This award is designed to honor one outstanding local school board. A nominated board must be a member of the VSBA at the time of nomination and selection. A board can be nominated by the Superintendent or Board Chairman on behalf of the Board. A panel of judges rates and ranks the nominees based on their submitted credentials.

VSBA All Virginia School Board

This award will recognize one outstanding individual school board member from each VSBA region (9) who exemplifies local involvement in promoting student achievement. This group of individuals each year will comprise the "VSBA All Virginia School Board". They will be presented with appropriate awards at the Annual Convention in November to recognize her/his efforts in promoting student achievement. Nominees must be or have been a board member within the preceding 12 months ending June 30. They may be nominated by their school board. A panel of judges rates and ranks the nominees based on their submitted credentials.

Congratulations to the New Elected/Appointed School Board Members who took office on July 1.

Randy W. Alvis
Beth Dillow Rhinehart
Steve Webb
Christie N. Craig
Bonita Billingsley Harris
V.G. Roberson
Philip W. Campbell
Carolyn S. Pitches
Mitch A. Sutterfield
Gregory R. Rasnake
Patrick R. Riccards
Mrs. Jannan W. Holmes
Joseph C. Kilgore
Jennifer P. Phillips
Paul E. Diggs
Elliot G. Jenkins
R. Lynn Vogel
Pamela J. Sebesky
Sanford S. Williams
Pricillia E. Burnett
T. Jeff Stodghill
Claude C. Parent
Ernest L. Reid, Jr.
Stephen T. Cox
Amy Guffey Darby

Bristol City
Bristol City
Buena Vista City
Chesapeake City
Chesapeake City
Colonial Beach Town
Danville City
Fairfax City
Fairfax City
Falls Church City
Falls Church City
Fredericksburg City
Hampton City
Hampton City
West Point Town
West Point Town
West Point Town
Manassas City
Manassas City
Newport News City
Newport News City
Portsmouth City
Portsmouth City
Radford City
Staunton City

Let VSBA Help Get You Started Right

Join us at either the Orientation for New School Board Chairs/Vice-Chairs

Or

Orientation for New Board Members and Superintendents

July 19, 2010

Richmond Marriott

Visit the VSBA website www.vsba.org or call (800) 446-8722 to register.

Children Expected to Feel Effects of the Recession for Years

As students head home for summer vacation, a recent study released shows that many more of those students may be heading to a home struggling with poverty.

The report, released by the Foundation for Child Development, is known as the Child and Youth Well-Being Index. It found that more children will have two parents who are unemployed, fewer children will enroll in pre-kindergarten programs, and fewer teens will find summer jobs.

To be specific, the report states that more than a quarter of American children will live in families where both parents don't have full-time jobs, up from 22 percent in 2006. As many as half a million children could become homeless, up from 330,000 in 2007.

According to the Web site, The Hechinger Report, "The Child and Youth Well-Being Index predicts that in the next few years, the economy may recover and the unemployment rate may drop, but the generation growing up now could feel the harsh impact of the recession for years to come."

The study also predicts this could compromise children's well-being, which may result in a range of factors from more children struggling with obesity to more children being victimized by crime.

Unfortunately, according to the report, "The decline in overall child well-being in the U.S. comes after several years of improvement driven largely by declining rates of crime, drinking and drug use."

Two common 5K misconceptions

The VSBA 5k race is just for runners: Wrong!

Walkers are welcome!


This race is for runners, walkers, joggers, sprinters....you name it, all are welcome!

The VSBA 5k race is just a "fun thing to do": Wrong!

One out of three children in Virginia are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight.

This race is to promote physical activity in our schools and get our children on a healthier path.

In addition to being an example by running or walking this 5k, you can also challenge your schools to participate in a similar physical activity in support of your 5k efforts through our "School Challenge". Let the students show their support for you by getting their heart rates up for the same cause!



7th Annual 5K Walk / Run

VSBA ARCHITECTURE INTERIORS PLANNING

eperitus Insight for Education

VSBA 7th Annual 5K Walk / Run
Promoting physical activity in our schools.

November 18, 2010 7:15 am
Williamsburg, Virginia

School Board & Superintendent Registration is FREE!

Officers

- Warren J. "Jeff" Bain (Pulaski County).....President
- Ann Y. Williams (Hopewell City).....President-Elect
- Stuart D. Gibson (Fairfax County).....Past President

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- Karen J. GerlachRadford City
- Joan E. WodiskaFalls Church City
- Harold T. GoldingCarroll County

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- Kerri M. Wilson (Harrisonburg City).....Federal Relations
- Priscilla B. Godfrey (Loudoun County).....Legislative Positions

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- Randy J. Bailey (Page County).....Valley



The Virginia School Boards Association is a voluntary, self supporting and nonpartisan organization whose primary mission is the advancement of education through the unique American tradition of local citizen control of, and accountability for, the Commonwealth's public schools. In this way, education policy is decided by the local school boards who are directly accountable to the community. VSBA promotes quality education through services to local school boards. It represents school boards' interests before the legislature, state agencies, Congress and other state and national regulatory bodies. Membership in the VSBA represents the Commonwealth's school boards, who in turn, govern the schools attended by 100% of the public school children in Virginia.

VSBA Newsletter, Summer 2010

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- Editor.....Gina Patterson
- Contributing Editors.....Barbara Coyle, Dick Pulley, Elizabeth Ewing, Harry Ward, Herb Cottrill

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2010

- 11-13 NSBA Southern Region Conference—Williamsburg
- 19 VSBA New Chairmen/Board Member/
Superintendent Orientation—Richmond
- 20 Governor's Conference on Education—Richmond

August 2010

- 17 VSBA Board of Directors Meeting—Charlottesville
- 19 VSBA Hot Topic Conference—Charlottesville