



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

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Delegate Assembly Update
Page 2

VSBA Employer Commendation Program
Page 5

Take Your Legislator to School Month Highlights
Page 6

Spotlight on Staunton City Public Schools
Page 7

VSBA Annual Convention Highlights
Pages 8-11

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 23 & 24, 2017
VSBA Capital Conference

January 24, 2017
VSBA Orientation for New Board Members and Superintendents

January 24, 2017
VSBA Orientation for New School Board Chairmen & Vice-Chairmen

MEET BOB HUNDLEY, VSBA's NEW PRESIDENT

Bob Hundley has been a member of the Hanover County School Board since 2004. Hundley has served as chairman of the Hanover County School Board and held several leadership positions with the VSBA, including serving as president-elect, chairman of the Legislative Positions/Federal Relations Committee, at-large member, member of the Finance Committee, and a member of the VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments. Hundley has also represented the VSBA Board of Directors on the Virginia Department of Education's Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents' Assessment Roundtable.

Why did you first decide to serve on your local school board and why have you continued to serve over all these years?

I had been serving on the Superintendent's Business Advisory Committee for a number of years, and that work included organizing the annual review of professional development grant applications from teachers and administrators seeking funding from our local education foundation for various best practice workshops and seminars. Eventually, the Board of Supervisors representative for my district asked me if I had ever considered serving on the School Board and that he thought I would make a good board member. Through our appointed process in Hanover, I was nominated and appointed in June of 2004.

I've continued to serve throughout the years because I have seen how important the role of the school board is in establishing and assessing standards and in creating and maintaining open lines of communication with parents, the business community and the local governing/funding body. Our school board has had a history of members serving consistently longer than average terms, and that consistency and dedication to the position has helped our division focus on quality and continuous improvement.

What achievements are you most proud of in your division?

I worked with a group of dads, whom I had come to know mostly through Scouting, to help establish the

first WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) program at my children's elementary school. The program has encouraged dads, uncles, grandfathers, etc., to become more involved with their student's elementary school, and we have successfully shared and encouraged the adoption of the program throughout the County in almost every elementary school.

What challenges has your division faced in your time on the board?

We have dealt with community concern regarding the teaching of controversial material related to the 9/11 tragedy and also as it relates to various books within our secondary school libraries. In each case, we used a community-based review and evaluation process to review the concern and provide recommendations to the School Board for consideration. While we may not please everyone in every case, our use of a well-defined, transparent review process has been viewed as logical and inclusive. Even with topics which may not be controversial in nature, but which represent substantive change from the status quo, our Board prides itself on stakeholder input and clear communication of process.

What are the most significant changes on the horizon for public education in Virginia?

As technology continues to evolve and provide alternate routes of access to educational content, public education will be challenged to provide relevant and current instruction that meets the needs of all students. Challenging an ever-expanding spectrum of digital learners with rigorous course work is a huge task. School boards will need to seek out those opportunities to collaborate and team with other boards, community partners, business leaders, and associations like VSBA to accomplish this work.

Why is VSBA membership valuable?

The effectiveness of any organization is only as good as the effectiveness of its members; school boards are no different. VSBA membership provides its members opportunities to grow in their effectiveness through high quality training on topics specific to our needs as board members and through exposure to best practices that help all boards become more effective.

(continued on page 4)



Gina G. Patterson
VSBA Executive Director

**“The annual VSBA
Delegate Assembly
meeting is a prime
example of local
school boards working
together...”**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am always amazed each year at the VSBA Delegate Assembly to see the united effort of the 133 school boards that make up the association join together through the VSBA to promote, defend and support public education.

This united effort is nowhere exhibited better than at the VSBA Annual Convention Delegate Assembly of local school board members from around the state where they adopt policies and resolutions that determine the approach the association takes in lobbying at the General Assembly and other state and federal officials. The annual VSBA delegate assembly meeting is a prime example of local school boards working together for the benefit of the students whom they serve and represent.

Throughout the year, local school board members and the VSBA staff present the views of local school boards as represented by the policies and resolutions of the VSBA Delegate Assembly. The positions of the VSBA and personal testimony by the VSBA staff and local school board members illustrate a constant pressure on the challengers of public education. Public education and public schools are about the students, and not just about \$\$\$\$. It is mission of the association to constantly present this message to the public, other governing bodies, and the media.

When local school boards individually and jointly tell the true stories about public education to their constituents we all win. Please keep this in mind as we begin another challenging year with the General Assembly. Let's continue throughout the year to promote, defend, and support public education for the benefit of ALL the students throughout Virginia. Thanks for all that you do.



VSBA Delegate Assembly Update

The Delegate Assembly met on Thursday, November 17 during the VSBA Annual Convention to consider five new or amended legislative position proposals. Scott Albrecht, chairman of the Legislative Positions Committee and Manassas City School Board member, presented the report of the 2016 Legislative Positions Committee which detailed the committee's diligent work. The five new or amended positions covered a wide variety of topics including staff preparation and development, VPI student eligibility criteria, and Comprehensive Services Act funds.

The Delegate Assembly voted on three of the new or amended positions as a block with no objections. Two legislative position proposals were pulled from the block for discussion and debate. The first position, legislative position proposal #1, creates a new position related to the conversion of accrued sick, personal, and vacation leave for VRS years of service. The new language expresses VSBA's support for a legislative or process change that would give local school divisions flexibility to allow retiring employees to purchase VRS credited years of service through redemption of accrued leave. It is believed that this change would provide an incentive to teachers and staff to be fully engaged in their final year of employment. The second position removed from the block, legislative position proposal #2, amends VSBA's current position relating to educational technology funding. The amended language expresses VSBA's support of statewide initiatives that would help businesses and schools throughout the Commonwealth have high speed/broadband access at cost-competitive prices. Additionally, it states that if the Commonwealth requires school divisions to provide a certain bandwidth capacity per student, the General Assembly must provide such funding to reimburse localities for the increased costs, including infrastructure. After debate and discussion from the delegates, both legislative position proposals were passed by the Delegate Assembly.



The Academy to Envision Tomorrow's Schools: Eliciting the Teacher's Voice

Stewart D. Roberson, Ed.D., President, Moseley Architects
Jim McCalla, AIA, REFP, Vice-President, Moseley Architects
Carol S. Cash, Ed.D., Professor, Virginia Tech



In February 2015, Moseley Architects conducted a design workshop with the desire to know which school facility features truly support student learning. To discover these answers, the experts were sought...the practitioners who have been trained to teach, who have teaching experience, and who have demonstrated their success and leadership as teachers.

With the support of Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Education, Moseley Architects launched the inaugural Academy to Envision Tomorrow's Schools and invited the sixteen regional teachers of the year for 2015 and 2016 to serve as the first cohort of "[Academy Fellows](#)." The Academy served as a valuable means to celebrate the impact of Virginia's teacher leaders, to capture their vision and voice about learning and teaching, and to add to the body of knowledge that addresses the impact of facility design upon learning and teaching.

All of the sixteen Fellows embraced the opportunity to attend and participate in this inaugural effort. The Fellows come from all eight regions within the Commonwealth. They represent all school levels, including elementary, middle and high schools. Their curricular specialties include early childhood, pre-kindergarten, elementary education, special education, agriculture, theater, and all of the major content areas.

After setting the stage for the Academy with a review of the literature related to future trends and facility implications, the real work began. The Fellows began a full day of activity by identifying what 21st century learning is really all about. They responded to questions like: "Considering descriptors of schools of the future, what adjectives come to mind?", "What activities do you imagine will occur in schools of the future?", and "My ideal learning environment will be successful when it can be..."

As the Fellows' comments were collected and analyzed, seven broad themes were identified that have implications for the design of 21st century schools, classrooms, technology, and furnishings. The themes are Student-Centered Design, Collaborative Spaces, Flexibility, Technology Utilization, Extensions of the Classroom, Media Centers, and Buildings that Teach.

The Academy generated more than the discussions of the seven themes. The Fellows also created visual representations of those themes as architects of schools might apply them. (See these images and more on the [VSBA Website](#))

The elementary team of Fellows identified learning areas, including outdoor learning spaces for each grade level. Administrative and student services were centralized and collaborative areas were planned for each area.

The middle school team provided integrated learning and collaborative areas for each grade. They also placed STEM activity and other learning labs adjacent to the media center, and planned outdoor seating and learning spaces.

The high school team identified multiple informal seating areas for students to work individually or collaboratively. They also integrated the core curricular areas.

Upon completion of the Academy, the Fellows expressed their excitement that their "teacher voices" were both sought and heard. They further indicated how they appreciate the opportunity to work directly with architects to talk about both the curriculum and the physical design of future schools. They left the Academy experience with a renewed resolve to provide learner-centered and personalized instruction, to arrange their classrooms to reflect that orientation, to investigate the use of other furnishings, and to encourage their professional colleagues to expand outdoor opportunities for students.

(continued on page 4)



ACADEMY TO ENVISION TOMORROW *(continued from page 3)*

Moseley Architects was honored to have this opportunity, as a long time sponsor of the Virginia Teacher of the Year program, to engage directly with this impressive group of highly decorated teacher professionals. Indeed, tomorrow's schools will be imminently more effective and responsive as they are designed through efforts to intentionally capture the vision and voice of our teachers.

More detailed information about the Academy, including visual representations of designs, can be found at the vsba.org website. There, also, you will find the presentation about the Academy delivered on November 17, 2016 at the recent VSBA Annual Conference. For more information, please contact Stewart Roberson at sroberson@moseleyarchitects.com or Jim McCalla at jmcalla@moseleyarchitects.com.



Reminder: It's almost time to file the Statements of Economic Interest



This is a reminder that school board members must complete a Statement of Economic Interest as a condition to assuming office. After assuming office, they must file a Statement every year by **January 15**. The Statement of Economic Interest forms are provided to school board clerks by the Conflict

of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (the Council) at least 30 days prior to the filing deadline; clerks must distribute the forms to board members at least 20 days prior to the filing deadline. As a practical matter, clerks should distribute the forms to board members as soon as the forms are received from the Council.

Virginia law permits school boards to require certain persons (most frequently superintendents) to also file Statements of Economic Interest. The requirement must be contained in a written policy.

MEET THE VSBA PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

Such best practices are shared annually by divisions across the state during our Annual Convention and Education Conference, at many of our Hot Topic Conferences, and through our relationships with other associations such as the CTE presentation by the West Virginia association (WVSBA) in Wytheville last March. The VSBA provides valuable tools by which a board may assess its effectiveness in a variety of categories. VSBA membership provides boards the unique opportunity to find solutions to many problems that may have been previously solved by another member board.

How has your involvement with VSBA over the years benefited your division?

Hanover has benefited through my involvement with VSBA by the professional relationships we have developed between member boards and the associated sharing of best practices and in certain cases educational resources.

What does being elected VSBA president mean to you?

It means that I have a significant responsibility to help maintain the association's prominent role within educational circles, to help organize our association's education advocacy efforts and to serve the membership by ensuring the consistent delivery of valuable, relevant, high quality training.

What do you hope to accomplish as VSBA President?

I hope to encourage boards to embrace opportunities for continuous improvement. I believe if we are going to expect a higher bar for our students, teachers and administrators (and I believe we should), then we should be leading the way on the path toward becoming high performing, highly effective boards.

What advice do you have for new school board members?

Ask of and listen to as many "veteran" members of your board and administration as possible. Attend every VSBA conference that is offered; there has not been one instance in my 12 years of service where I have left a VSBA conference and not come away with at least one valuable experience or practice that I am anxious to discuss with our staff.

VSBA Welcomes New Staff Member

Please join us in welcoming Samantha Giles who is joining VSBA as our new director of meetings and conferences.





VSBA Employer Commendation Program

Thank your employer for supporting you and your work as a school board member! The VSBA Employer Commendation Program is designed to thank the employers of school board members for providing the support, encouragement, and time that is often needed to perform school board duties. Upon the recommendation of any Virginia school board member who is employed full-time, the VSBA executive director will send a letter of commendation to the board member's employer and a certificate suitable for framing and display. These commendations serve to remind employers that school board service is an essential and demanding avocation; encourage constructive dialogue concerning local education topics; reinforce the employer's existing commitment to school board service; and encourage other employees to consider participating in the educational process or to lend their support to those who do.



Please complete the [online form](#) by January 15, 2017. Letters and certificates will be mailed to recommended employers in February (VSBA School Board Appreciation Month).

Questions? Contact Samantha Bosserman, director of communications and board development, at samantha@vsba.org or 434-295-8722

Employer Commendation Form

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017EmployerCommendation>

VSBA Affiliate Member Profiles

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



BCWH Architects

BCWH Architects is a Full Service Architecture, Interior Design, and Planning Firm

Roger D. Richardson, AIA, REFP
Phone: (804) 545-7467
Email: rrichardson@bcwh.com
Website: <http://www.bcwh.com>



Siemens

Siemens improves facilities by making them more comfortable, safe, secure, energy efficient and less costly to operate

Tammy Shifflett
Phone: (804) 222-6680
Email: tammy.shifflett@siemens.com
Website: <http://www.usa.siemens.com/k12>



Fusfoo, LLC

No-cost digital website that gives high schools a way to bring their media to a single platform. It offers a meaningful peer-to-peer learning environment for students to connect with their community, alumni, and more.

Jana Levinson
Phone: (212) 257-4855
Email: jlevinson@fusfoo.com
Website: <http://www.fusfoo.com>

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



A Successful November as “Take Your Legislator to School” Month

By Emily V. Webb, VSBA Director of Government Relations

Again, this year Governor McAuliffe proclaimed November as “VSBA Take Your Legislator to School” month. To promote a closer relationship between public education and the Virginia General Assembly, the VSBA urged each school division to invite at least one of their state legislators to visit their schools during the month of November. We saw and heard from so many of you about your successful visits and meetings with your legislators.



Lynchburg City Public Schools welcomed Senator Steve Newman to Heritage High School and Delegate Scott Garrett to Sandusky Middle School. Senator Newman visited Heritage High School last year as the school was

under construction, and this was his first time on the campus since it opened. Student guides led their guest through the many highlights of their new school, including the field house, the cafeteria, the new Culinary Arts classroom, the science labs, and the media center. The highlight of both tours was the student engagement. Students asked their local elected officials about SOL reform, affordable college, dual enrollment, and many other issues that are relevant to them today.

Loudoun County Public

Schools welcomed several legislators to their schools the week of November 11th through the 14th. Attorney General Mark Herring held a question-and-answer session with senior civics students where he talked about his job and the role of the Office of the Attorney General. Delegate Tag Greason visited Belmont Ridge Middle School and Riverside High Schools where he spoke with government students, toured the career and technical education wing, and met with a learning specialist about the Riverside Café program. Senator Jennifer Wexton and Delegate John Bell visited third grade classes at Rosa Lee Carter Elementary where they observed personalized learning in action as students rotated through math stations, including technology, flash cards, manipulatives and project-based activities. Senator Wexton was also joined by Delegate Jennifer Boysko at Park View High School where they toured the school and spoke to seniors in government classes about the obstacles they encounter as women in the legislature. Finally, Senator Barbara Favola visited Seneca Ridge Middle School and Delegate Jim LeMunyon visited Little River Elementary and Michael Lunsford Middle School where they spoke to students about elections, their role as state legislators, and the political process.



In **Prince William County**, Delegate Rich Anderson visited several schools. During his visit to Rockledge Elementary, he gave a presentation to 4th grade students about the Virginia General Assembly and visited a classroom for students who have been identified as being on the Autism Spectrum. He also participated in the third-grade team's instructional planning meeting with the principal and administrator to experience the school's process of unpacking the standards, developing engaging standards-based lesson plans, and planning for how teachers would assess student learning.



Nelson County Public Schools

hosted three Virginia legislators during Take Your Legislator to School Month. Delegate Dickie Bell visited Rockfish River Elementary where he spoke to the fourth and fifth graders about his role in the General Assembly as well as his prior experience as a

special education teacher in Augusta County. Each month, Rockfish Elementary invites a community leader to speak to students and Delegate Bell served in this capacity for the month of November. Senator Creigh Deeds visited Tye River Elementary. During his visit, he enjoyed a musical performance by second graders as part of their music class. Delegate Matt Fariss visited Nelson County High School where he had the opportunity to visit various career and technical education classrooms. During his classroom visits, he observed students demonstrating the use of the new Auto Tech alignment lift. In addition, he toured the Habit House that is being built by students in Building Trades and the popular Horticulture Christmas store, where students annually make and sale Christmas Wreaths.

Finally, **Newport News Public Schools** hosted a bus tour of the school division for Take Your Legislator to School month with Senator Mamie Locke, Senator-elect Monty Mason, and Delegate David Yancey. The day started at Denbigh High School Aviation Academy where legislators saw a mix of academic and hands-on learning. Then the legislators toured several schools on the way to a luncheon at the division's newest school, the Discovery STEM Academy, a K-5 school that opened in September.

Thank you to the school divisions who participated in VSBA Take Your Legislator to School month. We appreciate your willingness to create opportunities for productive dialogue and develop a closer relationship between your school division, community and elected officials. Your efforts will pay off as we approach the 2017 General Assembly session. We encourage you to continue these important discussions so that educators and policy makers can work together to ensure that we provide the best possible education for our students.



Division Spotlight: Staunton City 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.

R.E. Lee High History Project Selected for VSBA Student Achievement Fair

Submitted by Mr. Rich Fletcher & Mrs. Lori Swortzel, Staunton City Public Schools

Over the past three years, students at Robert E. Lee High School have taken part in a unique opportunity to be “citizen historians” with history teacher Jennifer Goss. As members of a pilot group for a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum initiative now titled “History Unfolded: US Newspapers and the Holocaust”, students are able to engage with history in a new fashion while contributing research to a national institution. This year Mrs. Goss and her students received a special honor when they were selected to showcase the project at the Virginia School Boards Association Student Achievement Fair. The Achievement Fair highlights outstanding initiatives from school divisions across the commonwealth. Programs and practices are selected based on creativity and impact on student achievement.



Mrs. Lori Swortzel, an assistant principal at R. E. Lee High School who joined Mrs. Goss and two of her students at the Achievement Fair, shared her thoughts on both the importance of the project and this honor: “Our students have the opportunity to not just learn about history, but experience it through the eyes of the residents of Staunton during the Holocaust. They are discovering far more than what a book can teach them and are making relevant connections to their community and personal current events. These connections are then shared with the world! Jen Goss is an amazing educator who inspires students to be active participants in the learning process. She and her two student representatives, Sadie Stott and Katie Giovine, articulated their passion for history with poise at the VSBA conference.”



Participation in this project came about as part of Lee History teacher and USHMM Teacher Fellow Jennifer Goss’s involvement in the USHMM Regional Education Corps. Goss works with the Museum to help facilitate educational programs for educators nationwide and also to help explore new classroom applications. The outcomes of the students’ research and that of other students and citizen historians nationwide will help the Museum and scholars answer the question, “What did Americans know about the events of the Holocaust as they were unfolding?” Goss believes, “This project enriches student learning related to this time period in history. Not only do students have the opportunity to get their hands dirty with history but they also get to see how their own community functioned during the past. Students love to not only research these events but also to see the prices of items at this time and other ‘headlines’ from this era.”

The project began in the 2014-15 school year when Goss teamed up with four other educators across the country to explore how students could effectively engage in researching this material. Goss was the first educator in the cohort to tackle the subject during that school year while working with students in Lee’s Holocaust and Genocide Studies elective, and she designed a lesson plan that is now a part of the History Unfolded online resource collection. Information collected by students is input into a national database via the official History Unfolded site (newspapers.ushmm.org). Students at Lee have contributed over two dozen articles and more will be added during the 2016-2017 school year.

As a result of the positive feedback of students from Staunton and the other schools, the Museum moved forward with the initiative and additional pilot groups took part in the lesson during the 2015-2016 school year. In that same year Goss expanded the project into her Dual Enrollment US History course, and this year she extended it into her US/VA History course.



2016 Annual Convention Highlights

Fredericksburg City, Smyth County, and Accomack County School Board Members Receive VSBA Quarter Century Awards in Recognition of 25 Years of School Board Service

Malvina Kay (Fredericksburg City School Board), Jesse Choate (Smyth County School Board) and Dr. Ronnie Holden (Accomack County School Board) were each presented with the *VSBA Quarter Century Award* in recognition of 25 years of consecutive service on their school boards.

Melvina Kay, Dr. Ronnie Holden, and Jesse Choate receiving awards from VSBA Past President Bill Kidd (left).



Student School Board Representatives Awarded VSBA Exhibitors Scholarships

Applications for the competitive scholarship were made available to spring 2016 graduating seniors who had served as a student school board representative during their junior or senior year. Scholarships were awarded to the following students:

Platinum Level:

Maeov Saadee
Freedom High School
Loudoun County Public Schools



Gold Level:

Noah Smith
Windsor High School
Isle of Wight County Public Schools

Silver Level:

Erin Mayhew
Gretna High School
Pittsylvania County Public Schools

Silver Level:

Sugeivis Gomez
T.C Williams High School
Alexandria City Public Schools



Platinum sponsor M.B. Kahn Construction Company, Gold Sponsor Carter Machinery Company, and Silver Sponsors Ameresco, and ABM Education sponsored this year's scholarship program, which is in its fourth year.



2016 Annual Convention Highlights



3 Architectural Projects Earn State Awards; Grimm + Parker Architects Wins "People's Choice Award"

Three architectural firms were recognized in the 2016 VSBA *Exhibition of School Architecture*. Winning projects were selected from 13 entries submitted by 8 architectural firms in the areas of new construction, renovation and adaptive use of existing space. Recognized designs and firms are:

AWARD: Platinum Design Award

FIRM: BCWH

PROJECT: Henley Middle School

DIVISION: Albemarle County Public Schools



AWARD: Gold Design Award

FIRM: Ballou Justice Upton Architects

PROJECT: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology

DIVISION: Fairfax County Public Schools

AWARD: Silver Design Award

FIRM: RRMM Architects

PROJECT: Southside STEM Academy at Campostella

DIVISION: Norfolk City Public Schools

In addition, Grimm + Parker Architects' work on Louisa County High School won the firm the "People's Choice Award."

M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. sponsored the VSBA *Exhibition of School Architecture*.





2016 Annual Convention Highlights

2016 VSBA High School Student Video Contest Winners Announced

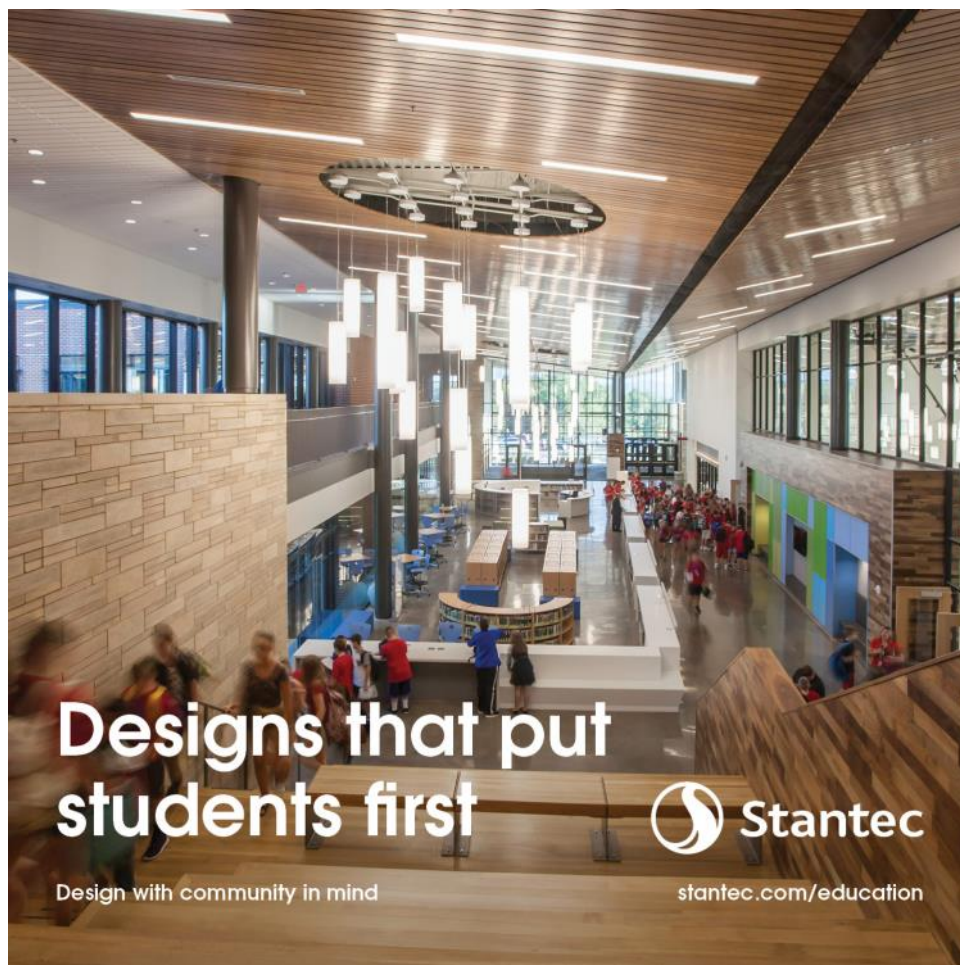
The VSBA's fourth annual student video contest challenged high school students across Virginia to create a 30-second video around the theme of "Student Achievement: What Does It Look Like?" The first, second and third place winners, selected out of 74 submissions, were announced at the opening general session of the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, VA, and the videos were shown to the convention's attendees.

1st Place: Arlington Career Center
Arlington County Public Schools
Sarah Strunk & Daniela Londono
<https://vimeo.com/185312376>



2nd Place: Hanover High School
Hanover County Public Schools
Emily Helfrich, Devin Albet, Kristin White, Evan Hughes,
Peyton Luck, Noah Killmeier, Joey Taylor, Bryan Diehr
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCea8S4n5Es>

3rd Place: Franklin County High School
Franklin County Public Schools
Nick Cambridge
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bEsDJ5d-IU&feature=youtu.be>



2016 VSBA Green Schools Challenge Winners Announced

Three school divisions received top awards in the 2016 VSBA Green Schools Challenge, a friendly competition designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce the carbon emissions generated by both the local school division and the broader community. This is the eighth year the awards were given out, and the challenge was sponsored by Moseley Architects and ABM Building & Energy Solutions.

Buckingham County Public Schools
(Student Population Under 5,000)

Culpeper County Public Schools
(Student Population 5,001 – 10,000)

Albemarle County Public Schools
(Student Population 10,001 & Up)



2016 Annual Convention Highlights



Regional School Board Members of the Year

Four school board members from across Virginia were awarded VSBA *Regional School Board Member of the Year* awards in recognition of their boardsmanship qualities and active involvement in promoting student achievement. This is the 15th year awards have been offered.

Central Region- Camilla Washington (Fluvanna County School Board)
Northeastern Region- Scott Albrecht (Manassas City School Board)
Southwest Region- Raymond Kohl (Galax City School Board)
Valley Region- Karen Whetzel (Shenandoah County School Board)



Albemarle County School Board Member Stephen Koleszar Receives VSBA Advocate for Education Award

VSBA Past President Bill Kidd presented Albemarle County School Board Member Stephen Koleszar with the VSBA Advocate for Education Award. This award was created to recognize board members who have demonstrated significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contribution to public education that has had an impact on their region and the Commonwealth, and who have shown active involvement in local, state, and federal advocacy on behalf of their division, VSBA, and public education. This is the second year this award has been presented.

Thank you to the VSBA Annual Convention Event-Level Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor

MOSELEY ARCHITECTS

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors





UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

January 23-24, 2017

VSBA Capital Conference

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott, Richmond

DETAIL: Advocacy by local school board members is a year-round job and even more important during the General Assembly. We will kick-off the two-day conference with an overview of the governor's budget, commentary on the new political scene both in Virginia and nationally, and VSBA's legislative priorities. Then join us in the evening for a reception that will provide you with an opportunity to mix and mingle with your legislators and top administration officials. The events on day one will help prepare you for your legislative meetings after breakfast on day two. The VSBA Capital Conference offers you an opportunity for your voice to be heard and continues VSBA's efforts for year-round advocacy.

Sponsored by:



January 24, 2017

VSBA Orientation for New Board Members & Superintendents

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott, Richmond

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 ethics, 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:



January 24, 2017

VSBA Orientation for New Chairmen & Vice-Chairmen

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott, Richmond

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 inquiries, 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:



Ask the Legal Expert

Q. Must the agenda be posted prior to the meeting?

- A. Yes. All materials (except those exempt from public disclosure) provided to the school board for a meeting must be made available for public inspection at the same time they are given to the school board.

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

Did You Know?

The first VSBA Newsletter was published in 1953.

FOLLOW VSBA ON SOCIAL MEDIA





2016-2017 VSBA Board of Directors

Not pictured: Scott Albrecht, Camilla Washington

PRESIDENT

Robert L. Hundley, Jr.
Hanover County

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Scott M. Albrecht
Manassas City

PAST PRESIDENT

William S. Kidd
Wythe County

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jarvis E. Bailey
Fredericksburg City

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS/ FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Beth A. Hardy
Goochland County

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

R. Tyrone Foster
Bristol City

Camilla D. Washington
Fluvanna County

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

Blue Ridge

Beckie A. Cox
Pulaski County

Central

Janet Turner-Giles
Nelson County

Eastern

Iris Lane
Westmoreland County

Northeastern

Jim A. Meyer
Spotsylvania County

Southern

Julie M. Bennington
Bedford County

Southside

Kenneth L. Pritchett
Petersburg City

Southwest

David R. Woodard
Tazewell County

Tidewater

Rodney A. Jordan
Norfolk City

Valley

Teresa R. Ellison
Buena Vista City

Gina G. Patterson,
executive director



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

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

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.

www.vsba.org | 434-295-8722 | 800-446-8722