

# VSBA Newsletter

2019 ISSUE 1



VSBA President R. Tyrone Foster (Bristol City School Board)

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# DATES TO REMEMBER

January 23 & 24, 2019 VSBA Capital Conference

January 24, 2019 VSBA Orientations

January 30, 2019 Webinar: Title IX

**February 5, 2019**Free Webinar: Equity in Virginia's Public Schools

February 13, 2019
Free Webinar: Virginia Lottery
– 30 Years of Fun, \$9B to
Education

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, VSBA. I hope the time that you spent during the holiday season with those close to you was joyous and that you had time to reflect on your accomplishments over the last year. I hope you are looking forward to building on your reflections to make 2019 the best year ever for you and your family. I know the VSBA is looking forward to a great new year.

At the 2018 VSBA Annual Convention, I was approached by several attendees and vendors stating that this was the best conference ever, so I want to thank the VSBA Executive Director Gina Patterson and her staff again for another job well done. We held the first 2019 Board of Directors meeting in December and everyone seemed very excited to get the ball rolling for a great year in public education.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new school board members to this great Association. I say to you "congratulations" on your election/appointment and thank you for your willingness to serve. We all know that being a school board member can be a thankless job but if we stay focused on what is important, which are our children, we will all find great rewards. As new members, I look forward to meeting you at the New Board Member Orientation on January 24th. There are so many resources available through the VSBA to assist you so I hope over the coming years as board members you will seek out the conferences, webinars and other trainings the VSBA provides. If you are a new chairman or vice chairman I hope you also have the opportunity to take advantage of the orientation held on January 24th.

Speaking of conferences, I hope you all are able to attend the Capital Conference on January 23 and 24th and have the opportunity to spend time with your local legislators at the reception. I also encourage you to not only visit their offices on January 24th but to advocate year-round for them to "Be The Difference" for every child in this Commonwealth.

The NSBA Advocacy Institute will be held in Washington D.C. this year on January 27th-29th.

Every year Virginia has had a strong delegation and this year seems to be no different. Being the advocates that we are, the VSBA has been able to set times to meet with our federal Senators and Representatives in order to discuss with them our challenges and needs.

In 2019 let's challenge both our state and federal leaders to "Be The Difference" for all of us. I also want you all to know that as your President I have been selected to represent the Southern Region as a member of the NSBA Policies and Resolutions Committee. Our committee meeting will take place on January 25th and I am looking forward to representing not only the National Southern Region but also the VSBA and all of you in Virginia. I am also looking forward to attending the NSBA Equity Conference which I believe to be a very important information gathering session for all of us.

Once again I want to say I am humbled by how much of a privilege it is for me to serve as your President in 2019. I look forward to standing among you as a leader to "Be the Difference" in this great Commonwealth. Thank you again for all you do for public education.

# February is School Board Appreciation Month

Salute the service of the almost 850 school board members in Virginia in February 2019 during School Board Appreciation Month. The theme — Leading for Success — reflects the top priority of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders on behalf of all students. Use the month to highlight the accomplishments of your local board, and encourage community leaders, business partners and local civic groups to join in your recognition efforts.





Gina G. Patterson VSBA Executive Director

"VSBA offers many resources to help you and your board be as effective as possible in your governance role."

#### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Welcome New Board Members!**

I want to extend a warm welcome to those of you recently elected or appointed to your local school board for the first time. You are joining nearly 850 other citizens throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia who volunteer their time as members of their local school boards. Serving on a school board is, without question, an investment of time and energy. Most board members agree, however, that the personal satisfaction they gain far outweighs the challenges associated with the job. Thank you for your commitment to this most worthwhile form of community service.

By now, you should have received your new school board member packet we sent you as soon as we received your contact information from your board clerk. If for some reason you have not yet received your information, please call the VSBA office to request a packet.

As a school board member, you are automatically a member of the Virginia School Boards Association. VSBA is <u>your</u> organization. It exists to provide leadership, programs and services to support school boards in your efforts to improve student learning. VSBA offers many resources to help you and your board to be as effective as possible in your governance role. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources as you familiarize yourself with the roles and responsibilities of school board service. Be sure to visit the <u>VSBA website</u> to learn more about your association, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you need assistance.

#### VSBA Finance Manual

Once is not enough when it comes to gaining information about school finance and – just as important – the working relationship between the local school board and the local appropriating body. The VSBA takes pleasure in offering this updated and expanded edition of what has traditionally been known as its budget manual.



Because of the enlarged coverage and its implications beyond just budgets and the budget process, it has become and is now regarded as a finance manual. The VSBA offers it to its boards and board members as well as to school division staff and legal counsel as yet another resource, among many, that the VSBA provides in its efforts to encourage and promote even more informed and engaged decision-making and advocacy on behalf of the Commonwealth's school divisions. One of the most important governance functions of a school board, of course, is to provide leadership and oversight regarding financial matters. In these changing times, that function is more critical.

Take a moment to review the publication throughout the year, but particularly now as you are headed into budget season. Take time to get familiar with this aspect of governance.

Here is the link to the finance manual:

http://www.vaschoolboards.org/images/uploads/VSBAfinancemanual.pdf

Please note that the finance manual PDF is password protected and the password was distributed previously to the VSBA membership and superintendents. If you are unable to locate the password, please e-mail Samantha Bosserman, director of communications and board development at Samantha@vsba.org.



#### WHAT IS THE SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS?

As a means of encouraging community awareness and positive press coverage of public education, the Virginia School Boards Association is inviting school divisions to recommend programs and initiatives that would serve as appropriate "Showcases for Success" in public education. Last year 89 programs were profiled and the list was shared with journalists, school board members, superintendents, legislators, and top state officials. Press coverage was generated statewide, and this project served to be an effective tool for disarming the critics of public education. We are compiling a new list for 2019, and these successful programs will be showcased on the VSBA web site for the entire year.

#### WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S FOCUS?

The focus of the 2019 VSBA Showcases for Success is Career, College and Life Ready.

# HOW MANY PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES CAN A DIVISION SUBMIT?

Each division can submit up to 3 programs/initiatives.

#### **HOW DO I SUBMIT?**

Submit online at <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019ShowcasesforSuccess">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019ShowcasesforSuccess</a>.

#### WHAT IS THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE?

Friday, March 1, 2019.

#### WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Samantha Bosserman, director or communications and board development, Samantha@vsba.org or 1-800-446-8722.

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#### February 18-22

#### **School Board Clerk Appreciation Week**

The VSBA Board of Directors has designated the third week in February as VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, with a goal of building awareness of the role board clerks play in assisting school board members, superintendents, and our local schools. Please plan now to show your local clerks you appreciate their work.



# BECOME EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE WITH VSBA BOARDDOCS PRO!

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Elizabeth Ewing VSBA Director of Policy and Legal Services

#### **FAQ: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**

With the #MeToo and #Times Up campaigns bringing attention to sexual harassment, now is a good time to review your school board's policy, procedures and practices. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to all employers, including school boards, with 15 or more employees.

#### What is sexual harassment?

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment. (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Facts about Sexual Harassment <a href="https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/fs-sex.cfm">https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/fs-sex.cfm</a>).

One important consideration in determining whether conduct amounts to sexual harassment is whether the conduct was welcomed by the recipient.

#### Is sexual harassment only men harassing women?

No. The victim can be a man or woman and does not necessarily have to be of the opposite sex from the harasser. In addition, the victim does not have to be the person harassed but can be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.

#### Is the employer responsible for sexual harassment from non-employees?

Yes. The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, an agent of the employer, a contractor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker or a non-employee. For example, a parent, community member, or volunteer would be considered a non-employee who could be a harasser.

#### What is an employer expected to do to prevent sexual harassment?

As an employer, school boards are expected to create a safe working environment free from harassment. A healthy workplace culture provides support for employees who report workplace concerns. Review your board's sexual harassment policy [VSBA Policy GBA/JFHA Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation], reporting and grievance procedures, and investigation process. Superintendents should ensure that the division's actual practices follow the board's policies. Provide relevant and meaningful training for all staff on the policies and procedures. Make sure that your division's Compliance Officer(s) are easy to identify and contact. Lastly, take seriously any report made and ensure that there is no retaliation following a report. Retaliation is forbidden against not only the victim, but also against anyone who participates in any way in the investigation of a complaint.

Helpful training could be to ask for possible scenarios from staff and then go through the steps of your policy. Your policy should cover from incident, to report, to investigation and so on. Show your employees how this would be handled and be open to suggestions on how to curb possible behaviors to create a safe workplace. It is everyone's responsibility to report behavior—even if not directed at them. Prevention truly is the best method of eliminating sexual harassment.

This article is adapted from one by the same name written by Jessica Sherrill, General Counsel for the Oklahoma City Public Schools, which originally appeared in the Oklahoma School Board Journal, Spring 2018. It is used with permission.



## **Division Spotlight: Poquoson 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.

### Poquoson City Public Schools Project-Based Learning: Veterans Project

Submitted by Poguoson City Public Schools

Poquoson City Public Schools is dedicated to preparing our students for both college and for the workforce, in alignment with the Virginia Profile of a Graduate. Through this work, our division also seeks to engage students with our community through service. In 2016, Poquoson was awarded a \$500,000 grant from DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity) to implement project-based learning in our secondary schools. Project-based learning engages students in solving real-world problems while developing their skills in the areas of critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and citizenship. Our grant focuses,



in particular, on engaging with and supporting our military-connected students and families. An example of a project that exemplifies this commitment is Poquoson's Veterans Project.



Through a project-based learning unit in U.S. History class during the 2017-2018, students documented the stories of 35 local veterans through writing and video-based products. This year, the project has expanded, and 70 teenagers at Poquoson High School are paired with 50 local veterans. The resulting work has been placed in the Friends of National World War II Memorial and in the Poquoson Museum. As a result of the project-based learning unit, students have come away with a better understanding of various wars and their impacts, gaining a deeper experience than learning from a textbook or a typical classroom environment. As a part of this PBL, local veterans serve as honorary captains for various sports teams and are also honored in the annual homecoming parade. Additionally, each veteran receives a Poquoson athletics shirt with their name and a number on it. Furthermore, veterans and students also participate in a field trip to Washington, D.C. where they visit various museums and monuments. This is just one example of the types of projects being emphasized throughout Poquoson City Schools.

#### **FOLLOW VSBA ON SOCIAL MEDIA**







## 2019 General Assembly Session

Last week marked the start of the 2019 General Assembly. As usual, there will be many difficulties facing public education with the always challenging budget process and several pieces of school discipline legislation. With a continued focus on education by the General Assembly, it's important to have a strong, coordinated message that is communicated regularly to your state legislators.

During session, VSBA needs your assistance and active support to engage the public and your elected officials. The VSBA Lobbying Team will be in the trenches for you in Richmond, but legislators want to hear from YOU! Your voice as a constituent and local leader is extremely valuable to them. So how do you communicate effectively, create a strong message and stay on topic?

VSBA ADVOCACY EVENTS

# **January 9**First Day of the

First Day of the 2019 General Assembly session

#### January 23-24

VSBA Capital Conference

#### **January 23**

VSBA Legislative Reception

#### **January 24**

VSBA Day at the General Assembly

#### February 23

Last Day of the scheduled 2019 General Assembly session

VSBA

# Capital Conference

RICHMOND, VA January 23-24, 2019







Below are a few how-to tips for you to utilize during the session and throughout the year with your advocacy work:

- Make personal, face-to-face contact with your legislators whenever possible. Remember to call ahead when you will be in town to meet with your legislators. If you can't travel to Richmond, don't hesitate to pick up the phone to have a conversation with them. The personal interaction is key to developing and continuing that strong relationship.
- Time is always limited when meeting with your legislators. Be prepared by knowing the issues and having facts to support your position. If you don't know an answer to one of their questions, be honest and follow-up with the answer after your meeting.
- Be sure to know the basic legislative process. Your input about the local impact of legislation can be helpful at any time. However, be sure about when and to whom to lobby. Depending on where the bill is in the legislative process, concentrate your efforts on the appropriate members.
- Always remember to be courteous to your member and respect their time limitations.
- Legislative aides are an important part of the process. Even when you can't talk directly to a legislator, speaking with their legislative aide is vital. They are most often advising the members on specific bills and preparing them each day for session.

Over the next few months, VSBA will be calling on you through various action alerts. When we put out an alert, we ask that you follow up with a call or email to your legislator(s) urging their support or opposition to a bill. Also, don't forget to share VSBA's legislative priorities which are available on the <a href="VSBA website">VSBA website</a>.

You can stay up-to-date on the happenings at the General Assembly through the VSBA Legislative blog, Facebook, or Twitter account and through the email action alerts sent throughout the session.

## What is Your Why?

By Samantha Bosserman, VSBA Director of Communications and Board Development

We have all heard catchy phrases for New Year's resolutions; New Year, New You! or The Time is Now! Many of us make resolutions to be healthier, happier, spend more time outside, etc. But why do we resolve to do these things? What about the past year do we hope will be different in 2019 and how will we make it so? But more importantly we need to determine why we want to do things differently and why we do something at all.



First we need to determine *why* we do what we do. Do not confuse the answer to *how* as the answer to *why*. It does not matter how you came to be a member of the school board. You may have been appointed, were successful in a close election, or ran unopposed. You are now on the school board and you need to determine your why.

Why did you choose to serve on the school board or why do you continue to serve on the school board? Right now, take a second to write down or think of why you are on the school board. Is your why focused on student achievement? If not, think about what are you focused on, and how can you refocus to keep all students at the forefront of your work and the work of the entire governance team.

Often times we are caught up in the whirlwind of meetings, appointments, conference calls, public hearings, etc., and forget the purpose of why we do what we do. Come back to your why when you are on hour three of a five-hour budget meeting, when you have sixteen voicemail messages from community members, and when you are driving home after making a tough decision with your governance team. School board service is one of the most challenging public service positions that you can undertake. You are making decisions that affect students and people, not widgets. It is very important work, and you have chosen to serve your community and your students.

Continue to focus on your why thoughout the year and if you get distracted, remember to come back, take a few moments, and think of why you are doing what you are doing. While school board service may be, at times, a thankless job, know that when you focus on your why, and focus on the achievement of all students, everyone reaps the benefits.

## **Ask the Legal Expert**

- Q. When must school board members file their Statements of Economic Interest?
- A. Each board member (except those in towns with a population of less than 3,500) must file a Statement of Economic Interest "as a condition of taking office" and thereafter annually on or before February 1. Va. Code § 2.2-3115. The completed forms are public records and must be maintained in the office of the school board clerk for five years. As a practical matter, it is a good idea for each school board member to keep a copy of each Statement to make it easier to update the form for the next filing.

See previous "Ask the Legal Experts" online at <a href="http://www.vsba.org/services/legal">http://www.vsba.org/services/legal</a> services/ask the experts/



#### One For All, All For Wellness in 2019!

It's easy for wellness resolutions to last all year when it's an all-in team effort! This year look for a healthcare partner that gives your school employees access to team wellness challenges. Offerings like BPA BestLife's Wellness Portal allow your employees to live their best life in 2019!

Learn more at www.bpatpa.com

# **VSBA Equity Webinar Series**

VSBA is proud to introduce the First Equity Webinar Series. Are you interested in educational equity in your school division? Do you want to understand the issues facing Virginia's students and teachers? Hear from content area experts and school board members on the challenges and opportunities in Virginia's Public schools. Registration for each of the webinars are free of charge and attendees will receive one academy credit point per webinar attended. Webinars will also be recorded and available on-demand.

#### February 5, 2019 11:00 a.m. – Noon

#### **Equity in Virginia's Public Schools**

The first session in the VSBA Equity Webinar Series will feature members of VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments discussing Equity as it relates to Virginia's Public Schools. Attendees will hear information on creating an Equity policy for their school division, as well as other issues that the Task Force has discussed in the past year.

**Presenters:** Rodney Jordan, Co-Chair, VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments, School Board Member, Norfolk City Public Schools; Dr. Mark Lineburg, Superintendent, Halifax County Public Schools; Mark Cathey, School Board Member, Roanoke City Public Schools

Click here to register: <a href="https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/476558420017446915">https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/476558420017446915</a>

#### March 6, 2019 11:00 a.m. – Noon

#### PBIS: A System-wide Approach to Addressing Social, Emotional & Behavioral Needs in ACPS

In an effort to support the academic, social-emotional and behavioral needs of all students, ACPS utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Support, known as MTSS. The social-emotional and behavioral component of MTSS is also referred to as PBIS, which is a framework that includes consistent school-wide practices and intervention strategies to encourage positive student behavior. PBIS also serves to create and maintain positive learning environments for students and staff. Restorative Practices are a part of this framework. Restorative Practices are based on the principles of Restorative Justice that emphasize the importance of positive relationships as central to building community and involve processes that restore relationships when harm has occurred. Together these PBIS and RP practices help to build an inclusive school culture which encourages connectedness among students and staff and shared ownership of the learning environment.

**Presenters:** Alexandria City Public Schools: Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief Student Services Officer; Kennetra Wood, Director of Alternative Programs & Equity; Sheri James Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Coordinator; Gregory Baldwin, School Climate and Culture Specialist

Click here to register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2061578099710371843

#### April 9, 2019 11:00 a.m. – Noon

#### Our Homegrown Culturally Responsive Teaching Model, an Evidence Based Approach

Participants in this webinar will explore the journey of ACPS educators who have participated in a year of training, self-reflection on cultural biases, and application of Culturally Responsive Teaching leading to the production of evidence showing that achievement gaps in their classrooms or school were tackled. Educators in ACPS are led through this process by peers who have demonstrated expertise as Culturally Responsive Educators, those who have proven to eliminate gaps through their application of the ACPS Three Characteristics of Culturally Responsive Teaching:

- (1) Demonstrating a deep understanding of how their cultures interact with the cultures of their students,
- (2) Using relevant curriculum and critical culturally responsive practices to increase rigor for their students, and
- (3) Building learning partnerships with families in service of the academic achievement of their students.

The Albemarle County Public Schools, Culturally Responsive Teaching model believes that teachers trained as culturally responsive educators should view underachievement not as a student or family problem, but as an instructional one, a personal challenge that our educators are transforming their teaching to address.

**Presenters:** Albemarle County Public Schools- L. Bernard Hairston, Assistant Superintendent; Leilani Keys, Equity Specialist; Lars Holmstrom, Equity Specialist

Click here to register: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2499258494968680963

#### May 9, 2019 11:00 a.m. – Noon

# Examining the Equity of Outcomes in Virginia Schools- How Are Our Black and Latino Students Doing?

How are Virginia's Black and Latino students faring? What are the issues specific to Black and Latino communities that school board members should know about? Let's take a look at the data and the opportunities we have as leaders in our school divisions.

Presenter: Chris Duncombe, Senior Policy Analyst, The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis

Click here to register: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3570341150030860289



## **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.



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# Looking for a new superintendent? **Look no further.**

Finding and hiring the right superintendent for your division will be one of the most important decisions you make as a board. The long-term impact and importance of this process and decision cannot be underestimated.

For more than 40 years, the VSBA search process has proven successful in Virginia. VSBA is affiliated with the National Affiliation of Superintendent Searchers (NASS) providing access to executive search staff all over the country.

For information on VSBA's superintendent search service, call Gina Patterson at 1-800-446-8722

#### **Current VSBA Superintendent Searches**

Colonial Heights Public Schools

For additional information on the VSBA Superintendent Search Services, please visit: http://www.vsba.org/services/superintendent search assistance/

978%

In the 2018 VSBA Member Opinion Survey 97.8% of respondents listed that

they Strongly Agree or Agree that VSBA is effective at keeping your board up-to-date and informed on advocacy issues.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

#### **January 30, 2019**

#### **WEBINAR: Title IX- Best Practices in Training and Compliance**

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: With claims of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct hitting newsstands everywhere, Title IX coordinators and other senior staff need to be confident in their knowledge and enforcement of their divisions' policies. Prevention and thorough investigations are the best ways to manage risk and foster a safe and healthy school environment. Participants will learn the basics of Title IX, best practices regarding Title IX policies, and recent case law relating to sexual harassment of students, gender discrimination, and employee training requirements.

#### **February 5, 2019**

#### FREE WEBINAR: VSBA EQUITY SERIES

**Equity in Virginia's Public Schools** 

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: The first session in the VSBA Equity Webinar Series will feature members of VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments discussing Equity as it relates to Virginia's Public Schools. Attendees will hear information on creating an Equity policy for their school division, as well as other issues that the Task Force has discussed in the past year.

#### \*\*\*NEW DATE\*\*\* February 13, 2019

# FREE WEBINAR: Virginia Lottery: 30 Years of Fun, \$9B to Education

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: Did you know that 100% of Virginia Lottery proceeds support public education K-12 in the Commonwealth? Join a Virginia Lottery representative to learn more about how Lottery dollars support your education community.

#### **February 20, 2019**

#### **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.

#### March 6, 2019

#### FREE WEBINAR: VSBA EQUITY SERIES

PBIS: A System-wide Approach to Addressing Social, Emotional & Behavioral Needs in ACPS

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: In an effort to support the academic, social-emotional and behavioral needs of all students, Alexandria City Public Schools utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Support, known as MTSS. The social-emotional and behavioral component of MTSS is also referred to as PBIS, which is a framework that includes consistent school-wide practices and intervention strategies to encourage positive student behavior. PBIS also serves to create and maintain positive learning environments for students and staff. Restorative Practices are a part of this framework. Restorative Practices are based on the principles of Restorative Justice that emphasize the importance of positive relationships as central to building community and involve processes that restore relationships when harm has occurred. Together these PBIS and RP practices help to build an inclusive school culture which encourages connectedness among students and staff and shared ownership of the learning environment.

#### March 13, 2019

#### **VSBA Hot Topic Conference**

LOCATION: Wytheville Meeting Center

DETAIL: Join VSBA in Wytheville for the Southwest Hot Topic Conference. This conference will bring together dynamic speakers addressing issues that are important and relevant to every school division regardless of locality. We will hear from topic professionals about the benefits of creating trauma informed school systems as well as rural school challenges. In addition, attendees will hear from a panel of healthcare professionals on a discussion about the opioid crisis. Finally, attendees will learn about loan and grant programs that benefit Virginia schools and the impact of physical structures on education and how "Buildings Matter'!

#### **April 22, 2019**

#### **VSBA Hot Topic Conference**

LOCATION: Holiday Inn University Area, Charlottesville DETAIL: Attendees will hear from topic professionals about the importance of school safety. Whether it's online, in the classroom, or in the community safety is one of the leading topics of today's conversations. We will hear first-hand experiences of handling a crisis in the community to counseling in schools, as well as designing buildings to promote safe and healthy learning. Attendees will learn about practical integration of technology and hear a discussion on school network security. Lastly, attendees will hear from an insurance professional about security risk management for school safety and insurance. We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting conference!



#### 2018-2019 VSBA Board of Directors



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#### **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.