

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 6, 2019
Free Webinar: VSBA Equity Series

March 13, 2019
VSBA Hot Topic Conference
Wytheville

March 20, 2019
Free Webinar: Filling Vacancies on Elected School Boards

March 27, 2019
Free Webinar: Combating the Stigma of Youth Mental Illness

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – THANK YOU!!

February is School Board Appreciation Month and as your VSBA President let me say **thank you** for all you do for the students in your divisions across this great Commonwealth. I often hear that this is a thankless job but I know with great advocates like each of you we are not only making a difference but also are the difference for the children we serve in public education. February also honors our School Board Clerks with School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, February 18-22. Please take the time to show your appreciation to them as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who were able to attend the Capital Conference in Richmond. I understand that because of the declaration of the State of Emergency it was hard to adjust plans on such short notice but I really appreciate everyone's dedication to attempt to do so. I want to thank our Executive Director Gina Patterson and her staff for the quick thinking and response to make this another phenomenal conference. The Legislative Reception was also a success. Thank you to each of the Legislators who were able to attend. I also want to thank each and every one of you that visited with your legislators in an attempt to challenge them to "Be the Difference" for public education. Please take time to stay informed by reading the VSBA Legislative Blog and your VSBA Daily News for any and all updates regarding upcoming legislation.

The NSBA Equity Symposium was held in Washington D.C. on January 26. I attended along with Gina Patterson, our VSBA Executive Director, VSBA President Elect Rodney Jordan and VSBA Finance Committee Chairman Iris Lane. Many other board members from around Virginia were also in attendance and I would like to thank you for your passion and for taking a stand on equity. As you know the government experienced a shut down but you wouldn't know it because Jim Meyer, VSBA Federal Relations Committee and Legislative Committee Chairman led a group of spirited Virginians in Washington at the NSBA Advocacy Institute. Attendees were able to discuss several items of interest with Federal legislators at this session. As your President I had the opportunity to represent all 12 southern states on the NSBA

Policies and Resolutions Committee that weekend as well, so to say that it was a busy week would be an understatement! Again I want to say thank you to all that were able to make the trip and advocate in Washington.

It won't be long until spring is in the air, so please remember that our Regional Spring Network Forums begin in early March. Also remember that the VSBA Southwest Hot Topic will be held on March 13, 2019 in Wytheville. That conference will focus on benefits of creating trauma informed school systems, rural school challenges, the opioid crisis and loan and grant programs that benefit schools and the impact of physical structures on education. You will not want to miss this very informative conference. I look forward to seeing you there. Once again let me say thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and to stand by you as we "Be The Difference" for our children of this great Commonwealth.



Members of the VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments met with Senator Bill Stanley on January 23 to discuss the work of the Task Force.



Gina G. Patterson
VSBA Executive Director

“VSBA recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by our locally elected and appointed school board members.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February is the month to celebrate school board service in Virginia

VSBA School Board Appreciation Month is an annual time for people around the state to express their appreciation to the men and women who volunteer to govern the affairs of our local public schools. The job of a school board member is often thankless and covers the executive, legislative and judicial functions of the school operation.

- They serve an executive function by hiring a superintendent, and then must work with the superintendent to adopt a budget for the division.
- They serve a legislative function by adopting the vision and policies that guide the division into the future.
- And they serve a judicial function by serving as jurors in any discipline proceedings that need to be conducted in a division.

Within the context of all these functions, there are many opportunities to fall out of favor with various segments of the community. But through all of this almost 850 Virginians still volunteer to come forward and commit their time and energy into governing the affairs of their local school community.

VSBA recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by our locally elected and appointed school board members who insure the delivery of quality education for our children.

March will mark the beginning of the VSBA Regional Spring Network Forums. The forums feature dinner, student entertainment, awards and updates on key education issues and association events. These events are designed to gather board members to discuss issues facing your region, share ideas, and provide you an opportunity to feel supported. Your regional chairman is your representative on the VSBA Board of Directors and is your direct link to the activities on the board; your input is invaluable to them. I look forward to seeing everyone as we travel around the Commonwealth this spring.

Thank you for all that you continue to do to support public education in Virginia.



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



VSBA Profile in Leadership– Meet Beth Hardy, VSBA Board of Directors, At-Large Member

Where is your hometown?

I grew up in Winchester, Virginia and attended John Handley High School—the only privately endowed public high school in the US.

How long have you been a school board member?

Since 2012.

Was there a teacher or administrator that has had a lasting effect on your life?

I was blessed to have a teacher in high school who was, hands down, the best teacher I had in my entire academic career - high school, college, and beyond. He ignited in me the desire to learn and push myself beyond my comfort zone. I enrolled in every class he taught, regardless of the topic, simply because he had a way of presenting material that excited his students.

What is your motto as a board member?

It's no different than my personal motto – integrity and persistence in all things. (I reference Calvin Coolidge's quote on persistence.)

What do you feel is the best benefit of being a member of the VSBA?

There are two benefits of being a member of the VSBA that resonate with me—one is the network of peers you connect with and the other is the support of the staff. I am able to reach out to other members and/or the VSBA staff at any time with questions or to bounce ideas. Networking is valuable and the solidarity we build on certain issues can have a dramatic impact on public education in Virginia. I love that the VSBA is recognized and respected as an innovative leader in public education. This affords us “a seat at the table” in many important conversations across the state.

Why is advocacy important to you and your role as a school board member?

Advocacy for public education is something I've done my whole life, simply by the way I live my life – I attended public schools; my children attend public schools; I was always involved in my kids' schools through volunteering and serving on the PTA, etc. I was a strong voice for my kids when it was necessary to ensure they were getting what they needed from the schools. It occurred to me, there are some kids out there whose parents/guardians are either unable or unwilling to advocate on their behalf. This is the main reason I ran for School Board. I wanted to ensure that each child in Goochland County would get the best possible education available to him/her. Through my experience as a School Board member, I better understand the impact of state and federal legislation on our school division, and have stepped up to do some higher-level advocacy.

Advocacy can be intimidating to some people. What advice do you have for them on ways to gradually become more engaged in advocacy?

What started out as local advocacy (for me) has expanded into both state and federal-level advocacy, because you can't really have one without the other. It was intimidating to me because Government is such a big “machine.” There are formalities and protocols. There are so many layers and players. Further, I was intimidated just by meeting with my legislators – not sure why – but I had to get over that because, ultimately, they work for me!

I have a few pieces of advice on how to become more engaged in advocacy:

- **Advocate loud and often.** Don't just reach out to your legislator once; do it all throughout the year and develop a relationship. Then, you'll actually find yourself in the position of them wanting your input when it involves legislation.
- **Educate yourself.** Find those things that you are really passionate about, and learn them inside and out. I educated myself using the VSBA resources (Advocacy & Government Relations) and talking with peers.
- **Communicate your story.** By working with my Superintendent and School Board, I was able to develop “a story” that would resonate. Being able to explain the local impact (and pain points) makes the issue more real, and the story more compelling.
- **Get involved.** Utilize the VSBA resources, respond to the Advocacy Action Alerts, and attend Legislative and Advocacy Conferences.

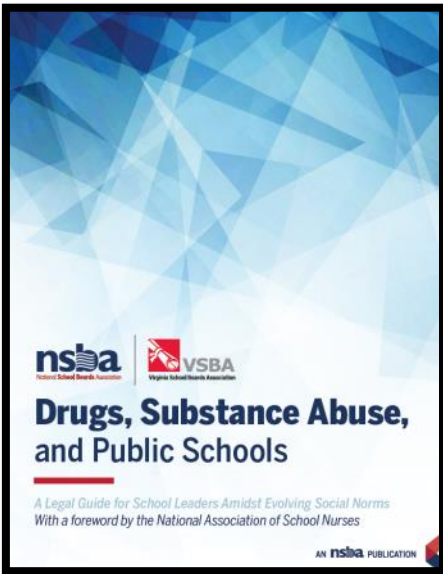


Beth Hardy
Goochland County School Board
VSBA Board of Directors
At-Large Member



Drugs, Substance Abuse, and Public Schools: A Legal Guide for School Leaders

The Virginia School Boards Association is pleased to provide to our members a guide on [Drugs, Substance Abuse, and Public Schools](#). The Guide offers a legal perspective for school leaders amidst evolving social norms. This guide was produced in conjunction with the National School Boards Association and with a foreword by the National Association of School Nurses. We hope you find this guide useful, and that it may help school leaders proactively prepare for and meet the challenges in this area.




Welcome to Philly!

VSBA Welcome Reception

Friday, March 29, 2019
5:00—6:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
1201 Market St, Philadelphia
Conference Rooms 411 & 412

RSVP by March 8 to Kim Hodges (khodges@vsba.org)

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VSBA Well Represented at NSBA Advocacy Institute

January 27-29 school board members from all over the United States attended the National School Boards Association’s Advocacy Institute, including 20 from Virginia. Board members attended general sessions that featured speakers including Pulitzer Prize winning author Jon Meacham, Dr. Norman Ornstein, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, and panel sessions discussing year-round advocacy, the current political landscape, and federal issues impacting public education. Virginia attendees met with Senator Kaine and Senator Warner, as well as representatives from the Virginia House Delegations to successfully advocate on behalf of public education in the Commonwealth.



Virginia delegation with Senator Tim Kaine (center)



(l to r) Jim Meyer (Spotsylvania County), Representative Abigail Spanberger, Jannan Holmes (Fredericksburg City), Beth Hardy (Goochland County).



Virginia delegation with Senator Mark Warner (back center)



Division Spotlight: Accomack 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.

Arcadia High School Celebrates Black History Month

Submitted by Camesha Handy, School Board Member

On Tuesday, February 5, 2019, prior to the start of the monthly board meeting, Arcadia High School hosted the Accomack County School Board, Superintendent Chris Holland, and his staff to an evening celebrating Black History Month.

Under the supervision of Ms. Della Jordan, assistant principal, 24 Arcadia High School students participated in the "Black History Moments in Time," a "wax museum". Guests entered Arcadia and were greeted by wax renditions of Michelle and Barack Obama, Michael Jordan, Langston Hughes, Martin Luther King, Jr., Simone Biles, Fredrick Douglas, Serena and Venus Williams, and many other notable African-Americans.

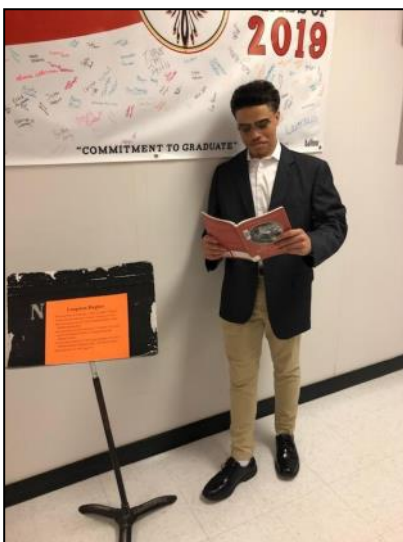
As guests entered the media center, they were treated to live music from Elise Britt on the saxophone. Guests dined on a traditional soul food dinner of chicken and dumplings, mac and cheese, southern style green beans, corn bread, sweet tea, banana pudding, and pound cake, which was prepared by Ms. Alyese Justis and her culinary arts students.

While the board members ate, the Arcadia High School Step Team, coached by Ms. Barbara Davis, provided a taste of the fire they bring in a short stomp performance.

All in all, the evening was not only a celebration of Black History Month, but a celebration of all the excellence that characterizes Arcadia High School.

Arcadia High School website link: <https://www.ahs.accomack.k12.va.us/>

School Board website link: <https://www.accomack.k12.va.us/>



FOLLOW VSBA ON SOCIAL MEDIA





VSBA Webinars Available On Your Time

Missed a Live Webinar?

Then consider purchasing video access to the webinar. Webinars on Demand offer our popular webinar events at your convenience - when you're ready for it.

How does this work?

When you purchase access to a webinar, you will receive access to the video recording on the topic of your choice.

How much does it cost?

Webinars on Demand are the same cost as live webinars: \$150 per connection, unless otherwise specified (unlimited number of participants per connection).

Do I receive Academy Credit for viewing an on-demand webinar?

Yes, you will receive 1 credit for viewing the webinar. You will receive an academy credit form to complete and return once the webinar has been viewed.

For additional information on VSBA Webinars on Demand, contact Tina Loccisano, coordinator of board development, at tina@vsba.org or 434-295-8722.

The charts below are just a sampling of the Webinars that are offered through VSBA. To view the complete list, please visit the [VSBA Website](#).

Live Date	Free Webinars	Fee
2.13.2019	Virginia Lottery: 30 years of Fun, \$9 billion to Education	Free
2.05.2019	Equity in Virginia Public Schools	Free
10.25.2018	What School Board Members Need to Know about School Bus Safety: A Primer for School Bus Safety Week	Free
10.9.2018	Best Practices in Bullying Prevention	Free
8.22.2018	The Captive Alternative Health Plan- Public Schools Join Forces to Stabilize Costs	Free
5.26.2018	The Tricks of the Pharmacy Trade for Self-Funded Divisions	Free
5.24.2018	What Can You Do With VSBA BoardDocs?	Free
3.28.2018	School Safety: A Focus on Prevention	Free
2.28.2018	VSBA Alternative Health Insurance Model: A New Way Forward	Free
1.12.2018	Improving Emergency Management in VA School Divisions	Free

Live Date	Paid Webinars	Fee
1.30.2019	Title IX -Best Practices in Training and Compliance	\$150
12.12.2018	Budget Basics & Finance 101: Part 1 & 2	\$275 for Both of \$150 for one
10.30.2018	Student Dress Codes and the First Amendment	\$150
7.26.2018	Being a Brand Ambassador	\$150
10.30.2018	Division Leadership & Division Culture: <i>Closing the Gaps Between What Sounds Good and What Gets Done</i> - this is a 3-part webinar series and is \$300 for the complete series.	\$300
5.17.2017	Improving Education Services for Children with ASD in Public School Divisions through the VCU Autism Center for Excellence	\$150
2.16.2017	Court(ing) Consequences: Educational and Other Impacts for Court-Involved Children	\$150



Thank You School Board Members!

Thank you for your service and dedication to Virginia's public schools. As we all know, serving as a school board member can be one of the most rewarding, yet challenging experiences. **Thank you, school board members, for all that you do for our students and for the future of public education.**



Sp Adobe Spark



2019 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.

Businesses large and small, corporate-owned or family-run, play a key role in supporting our communities and local schools. They contribute to our school divisions in many ways, including helping schools with in-kind or financial contributions, donating to scholarship programs, supporting extracurricular activities, offering internship opportunities, volunteering in the schools, and sponsoring field trips. This type of support is invaluable.

If you are working with a local business that deserves recognition, your division can add up to three names to the VSBA Business Honor Roll by passing a resolution and submitting the online nomination form to VSBA by April 8, 2019. [Please click here for complete information, including submission guidelines and the online nomination form.](#)

Later this year, VSBA will publish the Business Honor Roll in the association newsletter and issue a news release about those honored through this program. We also will mail personalized recognition certificates and letters of congratulations for each business to division superintendents in time for boards to present to them at May school board meetings.



Ask the Legal Expert

Q. Does FERPA permit parents to have a student’s suspension expunged from his record?

A. FERPA gives parents and eligible students the right to challenge information in student records that they think is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s privacy. If the school division determines that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s privacy rights, it is not required to change or remove the information. If the school division determines that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s privacy rights, it must notify the parents or eligible student that they can place a statement in the student’s record commenting on the challenged information.

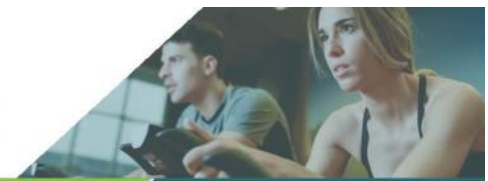
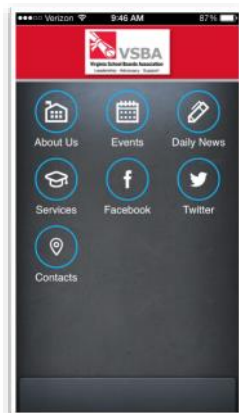
See previous “Ask the Legal Experts” online at http://www.vsba.org/services/legal_services/ask_the_experts/

VSBA App—Your On-the-Go Resource

The VSBA App is a great way to have quick access to VSBA information at your fingertips. The app is available for iPhone (in the App Store) and Android (in Google Play) by doing a search for “**VSBA**”.

Highlights Include:

- A direct feed of the Virginia Daily Education News, which will automatically update every day.
- A calendar of events for upcoming VSBA meetings and conferences.
- Direct connections to the VSBA Twitter feed and Facebook page (you don’t need to be Facebook or Twitter users to use this function).
- Easy access to VSBA staff contact information.
- Information on VSBA services.
- Access to the Annual Convention SCHED (when available).



February Fitness Challenge!

Ready to get your school fit this February? Encourage them to connect their Apple watch and fitness tracking devices to BPA BestLife! The BPA BestLife Wellness Portal allows employees to track their participation in easy to access fitness challenges. Don’t wait, get fit this February with BPA BestLife!

Learn more at www.bpatpa.com



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.



Grimm + Parker Architects

Nationally recognized design firm offering 40 years of experience in sustainable architecture, educational planning and programming, and K-12 school design.

Jill Burcky
Phone: (703) 903-9100
Email: jburcky@gparch.com
Website: <http://www.grimmandparker.com>



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A leader in delivering Quality of Life services that enhance Student Well-being. We help the nation's schools be vibrant contributors to the success of their communities by being a strategic partner to nearly 500 school districts.

Amy Oliver
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Brad Bolyard
Phone: (540) 658-3454
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Website: <http://www.howardshockey.com>

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



Current VSBA Superintendent Searches

Botetourt County Public Schools

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

VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award

The VSBA would like to invite you to apply for the second annual Excellence in Workforce Readiness award. This award seeks to recognize Virginia School Divisions which have achieved excellence in Workforce Readiness through an innovative program within your school community.

To access the application form and additional information visit: http://www.vsba.org/resources/excellence_in_workforce_readiness_award/

Deadline to Apply: **May 1, 2019**



UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

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. 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 11, 2019

FREE WEBINAR: The ABCs of Carving Out Pharmacy Benefits with BPA/ESI

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: Join this webinar and walk away with the knowledge and understanding of all the benefits carving out the pharmacy program has to offer. These benefits include lowering pharmacy spend, reducing pharmacy trend, and offering a richer utilization management program that not only benefits the plan's bottom dollar but also makes sure that the members are taken care of in the best possible way.

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"!

Sponsored by:



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!

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QUINN EVANS
ARCHITECTS

2019 VSBA Regional Spring Network Forum Schedule

These meetings bring together board members, superintendents, and guests for dinner, networking, keynote speakers, legislative updates, and outstanding student entertainment. The Spring Network Forum also features the presentation of the Regional Art Contest Winners. We encourage all to attend their regional meetings. This is a great opportunity to network with other board members in your region and share best practices.

CENTRAL—March 6, 2019 (Host Division: Louisa County)

SOUTHSIDE—March 7, 2019 (Host Division: Powhatan County)

SOUTHERN—March 18, 2019 (Host Division: Bedford County)

TIDEWATER—April 8, 2019 (Host Division: Suffolk City)

NORTHEASTERN—April 10, 2019 (Host Division: Manassas City)

EASTERN—April 11, 2019 (Host Division: Caroline County)

VALLEY—April 24, 2019 (Host Division: Bath County)

SOUTHWEST—April 25, 2019 (Host Division: Bristol City)

BLUE RIDGE—May 1, 2019 (Host Division: Botetourt County)

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED BROCHURES ON EACH FORUM!](#)



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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.