

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

VSBA Leadership Spotlight:
Catherine Wilkinson
Page 5

Spotlight Article on
Bland County
Public Schools
Pages 6 & 7

Nomination and Election of
Regional Officers
Page 7

VSBA Business Honor Roll
Pages 9 & 10

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 15, 2019
Webinar: Building a High-Impact Board/Superintendent Partnership

June 7, 2019
VSBA School Law Conference

July 22, 2019
VSBA Orientation for New Chairs and Vice-Chairs

July 22, 2019
VSBA Orientation for New School Board Members & Superintendents

July 23, 2019
VSBA Conference on Education

Greetings. I hope this message finds each of you well and in good health. I know that with trees budding, flowers blooming, and birds singing it has given me a new and fresh outlook, as we move forward this year. April was a very busy month for your VSBA Leadership team with the NSBA Conference in Philadelphia and several Regional Spring Networking Forums. I want to thank each one of you that were able to attend the NSBA Annual Conference; it was great to see you all at the VSBA Reception on Friday. This was a well-attended event, and I hope that you had the chance to network with other divisions in our great Commonwealth in a relaxed atmosphere.

I had the pleasure of representing you as a member of the NSBA Policies and Resolutions Committee. The committee met on Thursday afternoon in order to hear more proposed amendments. There were several spirited conversations and I couldn't have been more proud to represent Virginia and our entire Southern Region. Your President-Elect, Rodney Jordan, Past-President, Scott Albrecht, and Executive Director, Gina Patterson, joined me at the Delegate Assembly on Friday. The entire Commonwealth of Virginia should be proud of their work at the Conference. Also, I am proud to say that Winchester Public Schools were recognized as a Magna Award Winner for their work on equity at the conference. Board member Karen Holman shined as she accepted this award. Congratulations to the Winchester School Board and their entire division.

The April Hot Topic Conference was held on April 22, in Charlottesville. The focus was on school safety. The conference was well attended and everyone received great information from presenters who had first-hand experiences when it comes to dealing with school safety. It was great to see all in attendance. I hope you had several takeaways from such an informative conference. Thank you to Gina and her staff for assembling such great presenters.



Regional Spring Network Forums came to an end on May 1st. Although I was not able to attend all of them I know that the VSBA Staff and Board of Directors represented me well. I was able to attend the Southern Region which was hosted by Bedford County and held at Liberty Middle School. The Southwest Region which was hosted by Bristol City and held at the Central Office Building. The Valley Region hosted by Bath County, held at Bath County High School. The Blue Ridge Region hosted by Botetourt County, held at Lord Botetourt High school. The student entertainment was great, the food was delicious, and the guest speakers were phenomenal so, to say I was impressed with each forum and what everyone is doing in their regions would be an understatement. My hat is off to these regions along with Louisa County, Powhatan County, Suffolk City, Manassas City, and Caroline County for hosting a forum this year and congratulations to all the Art Award winners for each region.

May is also a busy month for all of us as we get ready for local awards ceremonies and commencement exercises. I wish you all the best. Please remember to join us at the School Law Conference to be held at the Short Pump Hilton on June 7th in Richmond. Don't forget about our upcoming workshops and webinars to assist you in becoming better school board members. Again, I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve and represent you as VSBA President. Thank you for joining the Virginia School Boards Association by accepting the challenge to "Be The Difference" as you lead, advocate and support the students of this great Commonwealth.

TF



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Gina G. Patterson
VSBA Executive Director

I hope everyone who was able to attend the NSBA Annual Conference in Philadelphia came away with new ideas to take back to your local divisions. It was great to see so many of you at the Virginia Reception Friday evening. A special thanks goes to BPA and VMDO Architects for assisting with sponsoring this event.

Congratulations to Winchester City Public Schools on being recognized by the American School Board Journal's 2019 Magna Awards program. Winchester City Public Schools were among the three Grand Prize winners selected in the annual program, sponsored by ASBJ and Sodexo. The Magna Awards were initiated to recognize local school boards for taking bold and innovative steps to improve their educational programs. Winchester will present this prestigious program at the VSBA Annual Convention in November. For more information [click here](#).

With the Spring weather having arrived, the VSBA has continued to attend the annual regional spring networking forums. Thank you to all the divisions who have planned, hosted, and attended the spring forums this year. The Central, Southside, and Southern meetings were featured in the previous newsletter.

Tidewater Region

The Tidewater Region hosted its forum on April 8th at the new Colonel Fred Cherry Middle School in Suffolk. Regional Chair Cardell Patillo, from Portsmouth City, presided over the evening's agenda. The session featured a panel discussion from representatives including City Mayors and County Administrators as well as General Assembly members.

Northeastern Region

The Northeastern Region Forum was held on April 10th at Baldwin Elementary School in Manassas. Regional Chair Jannan Holmes, Fredericksburg City, presided over the session which featured a presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region hosted its forum on April 11th at Caroline High School. Regional Chair Raymond Whitaker, from Essex County, presided over the evening's agenda. The Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools, Dr. Sarah Calveric, was the speaker and she spoke on the Profile of a Graduate.

Valley Region

The Valley Region forum was held on April 24th at Bath County High School. The session was led by Regional Chair Karen Whetzel, Shenandoah County. The speaker was Virginia State Senator Creigh Deeds, who charged all attendees with being the best at what they do, channeling the words of National Teacher of the Year, Rodney Robinson.

Southwest Region

The Southwest Region hosted its forum on April 25th in the home city of VSBA President R. Tyrone Foster, Bristol City. Regional Chair Paul Grinstead, from Smyth County, presided over the evening's agenda. The session featured speaker Jason Eige, Vice President of The United Company, who spoke on the potential revenue for the Southwest Region if legislation passes for a casino in Bristol.

Blue Ridge Region

The region meetings wrapped up on May 1st with the Blue Ridge Forum, held at Lord Botetourt High School. Regional Chair Teddy Martin, from Henry County, led the session. The speaker was Superintendent of Henry County Public Schools, Sandy Strayer, who discussed how to develop strong relationships with local media outlets.

Thank you to all of you who attended these regional meetings. We enjoy spending the time visiting with you all. As a reminder, you will soon be receiving the membership opinion survey, and we want to hear from our members. Your opinion matters as we take this opportunity to reflect and evaluate the work we do on your behalf.

We look forward to seeing all of you on June 7th for the [VSBA School Law Conference](#) at the Hilton Short Pump in Richmond.

Thanks for all that you do. **GP**



2019 Spring Regional Forums



Attendees at the Southern Forum



Louisa County Students Serving Dinner at the Central Forum



Manassas City Performers at the Northeastern Forum



Caroline County Students Serving Dinner at the Eastern Forum



VSBA President, R. Tyrone Foster, Brings Greetings at the Valley Forum



Attendees and Sponsor Jim Blevins, with BPA, at the Southwest Forum



Attendees at the Tidewater Forum



Student Performer at the Blue Ridge Forum



Attendees and Executive Director, Gina Patterson, at the Southside Forum



NSBA Annual Conference Recap

Over 118 Virginia school board members and superintendents travelled from March 30-April 1 to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the National School Boards Association’s Annual Conference. This year school board members participated in a Friday evening reception sharing refreshments and anecdotes while welcoming one another to the city of brotherly love. The Virginia Reception was generously sponsored by BPA and VMDO. Virginia had great representation at the Conference, with multiple school divisions receiving awards and presenting breakout sessions highlighting programs in Virginia’s public schools.



Winchester City Public Schools Earn National Recognition

Winchester City Public Schools was recognized in the 25th annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Association’s American School Board Journal. The Magna Awards recognize school divisions and their leaders for their efforts to bring educational equity to their students. An independent panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators selected the winners from over 100 submissions. Only 18 school divisions nationwide were recognized.

Winchester City Public Schools has earned a Grand Prize in the under 5,000 enrollment category in the 2019 Magna Awards for its program AMPed UP! (Accelerated Math Progressions for Underrepresented Potential). The program was created to address a lack of minority representation in elementary school advanced math. Winchester City Public Schools changed the way it identifies students for higher-level math classes. Fourth-grade students are identified through assessment scores and tapped to participate in STEM and enrichment activities during the summer and after school. These students go into advanced math classes and are supported throughout the school year. After two years of the program, African American enrollment in advanced math has risen. See more at <https://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/asbj-april-2019/hard-work-equity>.



Photo Courtesy of ASBJ photographed by Glenn Cooke

Congratulations to Winchester City Public Schools for their recognition as a Magna Award Grand Prize winner in the 2019 Magna Awards.



VSBA Profile in Leadership– Meet Catherine Wilkinson VSBA Southside Chair



Catherine Wilkinson
Amelia County School Board
VSBA Board of Directors
Southside Region Chair

Where is your hometown?

Originally Horry County South Carolina, now Amelia County for 50 years.

How long have you been a school board member?

12 years.

What/who inspires you?

I am inspired by those who face their challenges head on and are successful despite those challenges.

What is your motto as a board member?

Education is the key to breaking barriers and building a future.

What is your pie-in-the-sky vision for education?

That all students have access to quality education that prepares them for success in the 21st century. However, we can't just leave it to access only. We must also keep students encouraged and motivated so that they take advantage of every educational opportunity provided in an effort to better their future.

What is your advice for new school board members?

Doing what is right is not always easy. Stay focused on the goal which is advocating for the schools, the students, and the communities you represent.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment as a board member?

As a former educator, my greatest accomplishment as a board member is being able to rely on my educational expertise to support and advocate for current educators in the system. These efforts, along with others, is what I believe has allowed me to see the goal of full accreditation of all three schools come to pass during my time on the board.

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

Dr. Henry Featherston was a longtime advocate of education in Amelia County for over 40 years. I admired his invested interest in the education of students in the county. He was a dedicated educator offering unwavering support and assistance to teachers when needed. Not only was he dedicated to education, he was also dedicated to the community through his work with the local NAACP. Similar to me, he was not native to the county, but did not let that keep him from working tirelessly to improve not only education, but race relations in the county.

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

The networking and educational opportunities provided. In addition to networking, the knowledge gained has been invaluable to me as a school board member.

How do you define advocacy?

Advocacy could be a mindset, a behavior, or an action that seeks to enact change for a population in need. Advocacy is identifying the gaps and working towards providing equitable services for all. Advocacy is using the capital and resources available to assist those whom you are advocating for.

What made you want to get involved in advocacy?

It is embedded in the work of an educator. To truly make sure that all students have equal opportunity to success through education, one must advocate for their individual or collective needs.

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

As a school board member, you represent many bodies; the community, the school system, the faculty and staff, as well as the students. Advocacy is a way to use the influence afforded to me to make sure that each of these bodies are supported in the best way possible.

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

My advice would be to first understand your philosophy of education. If there are policies, procedures, and/or practices that do not match that philosophy, that might be an area to start advocacy efforts.

What is the most challenging aspect of advocacy and how do you work to overcome it?

The risk of making some people uncomfortable. Hopefully by being transparent about your work, using evidence to support your position, and operating from a place of empathy helps make that work a little easier.



Division Spotlight: Bland 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.

Bland Sci-Tec Academy

Submitted by Bland County Public Schools

The Bland Sci-Tec Academy provides opportunities for students to learn complex STEM concepts and skills in real world situations. All investigations focus on environmental health. The program is career focused and personalized for specific student and community interests. Sci-Tec enhances the high school science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum, is embedded within courses and also conducted outside of the regular school day. The Sci-Tec Academy's investigations are offered to all interested 9-12th grade BCHS students.

The Bland Sci-Tec Academy involves:

- Solving real-world problems in which students learn and model complex Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics concepts and skills
- Connections to specific job-related skills with the guidance of local industry professionals as well as that of national and international specialists
- Interdisciplinary teams of teachers brought together based on the content of specific problems
- A collaborative, quantitative approach to problem-solving that can be applied across all disciplines

Bland Sci-Tec Academy students can be involved in any one or all of the three types of environmental health modules within the same school year. These investigative modules are; Surface, Sky, and Space. Together these three standards-based module activities give a more complete, in depth, view of environmental quality.



Module 1. Surface

Students conduct "on the ground" surface tests for detection of environmental health issues regarding soil and water at specific sites in Bland County. This module is embedded within the BCHS Biology course. NASA Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) protocols are used to conduct the investigations. Data is shared locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally through the GLOBE website, www.globe.gov, and our Bland Sci-Tec Academy website, www.scitec.net.

Module 2. Sky

Students will construct and fly their own drones. These drones will be used to carry sensors that detect environmental changes in air quality of our local area at specific test sites. This information is useful to the community for detection of agricultural and ecological changes in the local environment. The Sci-Tec Sky Module is embedded within the BCHS Agriculture course and the Geology curriculum. The Sci-Tec drone educational program prepares students with the knowledge and skills to take drone pilot practice tests for possible licensing.

Module 3. Space

This program module allows participants to have access to relevant STEM expertise and gain knowledge and skills of engineering while building and testing satellite components. Students design, build, test, and operate various satellites to collect sensor data at different altitudes moving increasingly further away from the Earth's surface. The final product, the ThinSat Satellite, will be released into space aboard a rocket and will take data for five days as it orbits the Earth. This Sci-Tec Space Program is conducted within and outside of the school day. ThinSat Team members work separately from school courses, but data received from team member's sensors are used in the BCHS statistics course for data analysis. Students also collaborate with Virginia Space and NASA experts to evaluate the data.

This Sci-Tec ThinSat component is sponsored by Virginia Space, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport in partnership with NASA Wallops Island, Twiggs Space Lab, and Northrop Grumman. More information can be found at www.vaspace.org/index.php/thinsat-program

As of Feb. 2019, there are 80 students participating in the Bland Sci-Tec Academy.

The Launch of the Antares Rocket from NASA Wallops Island, to release our completed Bland ThinSat I satellite into orbit for five days of data collection, will be April 17, 2019.

The Sci-Tec ThinSat Team is currently building and testing sensors to complete the next ThinSat satellite named Bland ThinSat II.



DIVISION SPOTLIGHT *(continued from page 6)*

Sponsors

The Bland Sci-Tec Academy is funded by the Wythe-Bland Foundation. Other sponsors include Bland Quill Foundation, Virginia Space, NASA, Twigg's Space Lab, and Northrup Grumman.

Photo Captions:

Top: The student group is composed of Sci-Tech/satellite students, High School STEM Academy, and some Bland Elementary students.

Bottom: This is the Mission Badge for our ThinSat satellite that will be launched April 17, 2019. Please give Hannah Minnix, Bland County HS student artist, credit for the beautiful badge art. Our Bland County Bear stands alert to watch the rocket launching into space with our ThinSat I satellite aboard. Orange and blue are the school colors. The six stars honor the first BCHS ThinSat Satellite team and their



Put Some Spring in Your School's Step, with BPA Diabetic Management

Spring is here, and it's time to turn over a new leaf with better diabetic management through BPA BestLife. With BPA BestLife, your school's employees have access to diabetic care tools and supplies allowing them to better monitor their diabetes and take control of their health today.

www.bpatpa.com

Nominations for Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs

Nominations for regional chairs and vice-chairs will soon be open. Persons who wish to be considered by their respective Regional Nominating Committee for the VSBA regional chair position must submit both a completed form and pertinent biographical information.

Since Regional Chair and Vice-Chair positions are two year terms, only the following regions have openings for the Chair positions in 2020: Central Region, Northeastern Region, Southern Region, Southwest Region, and Tidewater Region

All candidates' information must be forwarded no later than two weeks prior to the fall regional meeting held at the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg. The 2019 Regional Nominating Committee Chair information is below. If you have any questions, please call your VSBA Regional Nominating Committee Chair.

Central	Northeastern	Southern	Southwest	Tidewater
Graham Paige 7314 Porters Road Esmont, VA 22937 434.286.3639 gpaige@k12albemarle.org Albemarle County	Robyn Williams 9021 Grant Avenue Manassas, VA 20110 571.377.6008 robynwilliams@hotmail.com Manassas City	Peter Gur 1813 Woodland Trail Farmville, VA 23901 434.391.1082 peter.gur@pecps.k12.va.us Prince Edward County	Bill Brooks 5454 Brooks Way Bristol, VA 24202 276.669.2419 bbrooks@wcs.k12.va.us Washington County	Karen Jenkins P. O. Box 1549 Suffolk, VA 23439 757.809.0808 karenjenkins@spsk12.net Suffolk City

For more information, and for the nomination form please review the Regional Candidate Packet sent to board members in the regions above on May 3rd.

FOLLOW VSBA ON SOCIAL MEDIA





The Right Safety Attitude

Enhancing Safety Culture

If you have a poor attitude about safety, it will show up in everything you say and everything you do. Sometimes, workers develop the attitude that safety rules were made to be broken—especially when no one is looking. Even those who are hardworking and conscientious about every other aspect of their jobs can have a poor safety attitude. Remember though, that ignoring safety, taking shortcuts, and breaking rules to get a job done more quickly is likely to cause accidents and injuries that take employees out of the workplace.

Some workers may think that not following the rules won't cause a problem if they believe a risk is small. They take chances, and this leads to accidents. These individuals don't take safety seriously—until it is too late. Most people don't intend to work with a bad safety attitude or even realize they have one. They think their last couple of accidents were just that—accidents that couldn't have been prevented.

Tips for having a good safety attitude

Here's how you can develop a good attitude concerning safety:

- Keep your mind focused on the job at hand. Put aside any personal problems that have been bothering you so that you can watch for hazards and accomplish what you have set out to do.
- Tell yourself that you will not let nearby noises or conversations that interrupt your concentration or prevent you from doing the job safely.
- Don't give in to pressure from your coworkers to be unsafe. You don't have to join in with horse-play, take shortcuts, or participate in cover-ups. Instead, take the lead in behaving in an adult and responsible manner.
- Report all accidents and near misses, even if they seem unimportant at the time.
- Try to understand why an accident occurred to avoid making the same mistake twice.
- Always follow safe work practices and wear any personal protective equipment (PPE) that you are required to wear.
- Practice good housekeeping. Keep your work area free of clutter, and clean up spills promptly.

Be considerate of your coworkers. Don't do anything that would endanger them. In fact, go a step farther and remind coworkers about safety. Say something when they forget to put on PPE or when they ignore the rules.

By following these suggestions, you can develop a positive safety attitude, one that others will respect and look up to as an example. But even better than that, you'll be able to do productive work and stay safe at the same time.

VACORP works diligently with School Divisions across the Commonwealth to provide Risk Control expertise and help establish a strong safety culture for all employees. Please keep in mind a VACORP Risk Control Consultant will be reaching out soon to schedule in-service safety training for: Transportation, Custodial, Maintenance, and Food Service. We look forward to working with you in the up-coming school year.

For more information please contact:

Chris Ballard
Risk Control Manager
VACORP
cballard@riskprograms.com



VACORP

NOW OPEN

VSBA

ADVOCATE FOR
EDUCATION AWARD



The VSBA would like to invite your board to nominate a board member for the annual Advocate for Education Award.

The nominee must demonstrate significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contribution to public education that has had an impact on their region and the Commonwealth

Applications are available online.

For questions contact J.T. Kessler, jason@vsba.org or, 1-800-446-8722



2019 VSBA Business Honor Roll

Local businesses have the power to shape community attitudes, especially as schools face increasing budget uncertainty. The Business Honor Roll helps divisions say “thank you” for their vital contributions. Congratulations to the following businesses that were recognized.

Alleghany County

Alcova Mortgage
Balchem Corporation
Clifton Forge Public Library

Appomattox County

Farmers Bank
BB&T
Pacific Life

Bath County

BARC Electric Cooperative
The Omni Homestead Resort

Buchanan County

Two-Way Radio Service
Terra Tech Engineering

Caroline County

Spotswood Church at Ladysmith
Value City

Chesapeake City

Hackworth Reprographics, Inc.

Colonial Beach Town

Dockside Restaurant

Colonial Heights City

Colonial Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc.
Gilbert C. Martin Co.
Chick-fil-a

Cumberland County

Centra Southside Community Hospital

Danville City

Noblis Center for Applied High Performance Computing
Smart Beginnings
JT Minnie Maude Charitable Trust

Dinwiddie County

Front Door Realty Group
Vulcan Materials

Fairfax City

Fairfax Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
Cameron’s Coffee & Chocolates
Circle Auto Repair

Fairfax County

The Dewberry Companies, Inc.
Integrity Management Services
Wordgate LLC

Falls Church City

Capital One
Familie Café
Patient First

Floyd County

Signature Designs
Turman Lumber

Franklin City

Bronco Federal Credit Union
Franklin Southampton Charities
Franklin Cooperative Ministry

Giles County

Coger Enterprises

Gloucester County

Freedom Rental
Northern Neck Popcorn
Olvia’s & Scoot’s Restaurants

Goochland County

CarMax
Piedmont Barbeque
Envoy at the Meadows

Halifax County

Microsoft Data Center
Dominion Power Company
Mid-Atlantic Brodband Communities Corporation

Hampton City

Ferguson Enterprises

Henrico County

Home Builders Association of Richmond
Richmond Ford
Richmond Raceway

Henry County

Lowe’s
Uptown Pinball
McKinney Heating & Air

Isle of Wight County

Smithfield True Value Home Center
Sumitomo Drive Technologies
Allfirst LLC

King George County

Opp Shopp
Northrop Grumman
Subway/Walmart #5779

Lee County

Estes Brothers Construction, Inc.
Food City
Lawson Building Supply, Inc.

Lexington City

Halestone Dance Studio
Kroger
Exxon Mobile Station Pit Stop

Loudoun County

K&H Landscape & Grounds Maintenance
Virginia Regional Transit
Space Dreamers

Louisa County

Ms. Elizabeth’s Daycare
Frostie’s Rail Stop
StrangeHouse SkateShop

Lunenburg County

Food Lion
Bliss

Manassas Park City

Metro Signs & Design Inc.
MicroAutomation

Martinsville City

Martinsville Speedway
Eastman Corporation

Mathews County

Machine Tools USA, Inc.

Middlesex County

River Birch Florist & Gifts
Horn’s Hardware

Montgomery County

Automation Creations, Inc.
Virginia Farm Bureau
Carilion New River Valley Medical Center

Newport News City

Riverside Health System
Newport News Shipbuilding
PepsiCo

Norton City

DoughMakers Pizza
Innovative Graphics
Walmart

Petersburg City

Amazon
Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Publix Supermarket

Portsmouth City

Claud’s Lawn Care
Identity Marketing & Promotional, LLC
Agape Counseling & Therapeutic Services, Inc.

Prince Edward County

FACES Food Pantry
Longwood University
Hampden-Sydney College

Prince George County

Moseley Architects
The EI Group, Inc.
Capital Fire & Water

Prince William County

Assistance League of Northern Virginia
IBS Millwork
MGTA-VSGI

Radford City

Benefit Plan Administrators, Inc.
Innovative Insurance Group
First National Bank

Rappahannock County

Eldon Farms

Continued on page 10



2019 VSBA Business Honor Roll Continued

Rockbridge County

Everbrite, LLC
Lee Hi Travel Plaza
Pink Cadillac Diner

Shenandoah County

Bowman Andros
Shenandoah Community Health Clinic
Strength in Peers

Spotsylvania County

Lowe's
Walmart
Belmont Foundation

Stafford County

ABM Industries
Apple Federal Credit Union
GCubed Community Services

Staunton City

Bethany United Methodist Church
Bojangles' Famous Chicken n' Biscuits
Kjellstrom + Lee Construction

Surry County

7-11 Convenience Store

Tazewell County

Ramey Auto Group
Claypool Hill Lowes
Cnx Gas Co LLC

Virginia Beach City

Virginia Beach School Federal Credit Union
The Adventure Park
Kellam Mechanical

Warren County

Fox's Pizza Den
Spelunker's Frozen Custard & Cavern Burgers
Wolters Kluwer

Waynesboro City

Waynesboro Florist
DuPont Community Credit Union
Kroger

West Point Town

West Point Pharmacy
West Point Ace Hardware

Williamsburg-James City County

Anheuser Busch, Inc.
Chick-fil-a
Movement Mortgage

Winchester City

Perry Engineering

York County

Dominion Energy
Kiskiack Golf Course
First Advantage Credit Union



APPLY NOW

VSBA: FOOD FOR THOUGHT COMPETITION

The VSBA would like to invite you to participate in the Eighth Annual Food for Thought Competition. A friendly competition between Virginia's school divisions to showcase their programs that combat childhood hunger, provide healthy school meals, and encourage wellness and physical activity.

For more information and to apply visit:
http://www.vsba.org/resources/food_for_thought



Now Seeking Nominations

The VSBA has three recognition programs that school boards and school board members may apply for each year.

VSBA Regional School Board Member of the Year

VSBA Board of Distinction

VSBA School Board of the Year

For more information and for applications please visit:
http://www.vsba.org/about/vsba_recognition_programs/





The Importance of Goal-Tracking Software for School Boards

By BoardDocs

It's not uncommon for a school board's strategic plan to see little momentum as the school year progresses. School board members are busy people, and often shorter term goals will take priority over longer strategic plans simply because it's difficult to stay on top of ongoing progress. But what if every member of a school board was able to see a dashboard of progress toward each strategic objective they set out for the year? Board management software with goal-tracking capabilities can keep your board on track to reach its goals.

Say your school board identifies three priorities at its annual meeting: 1) promoting student employability; 2) increasing institutional communication with colleges; and 3) doubling the foreign language faculty. Each goal is then broken down into steps that need to be taken to reach the objective. Take the third goal: doubling the foreign language faculty. Achieving it could require:

1. Forming a search committee;
2. Advertising a German and a French teaching position;
3. Meeting to assess candidates;
4. Inviting four finalists for each position to interview;
5. Conducting the interviews;
6. Making an offer;
7. Negotiating; and
8. Finalizing HR duties for the new hire.

Each of these eight steps could be counted as equally important, so that completion of each step counts was equal in weight. Completion of any of them could then be thought to contribute 12.5% of the work needed to be done. BoardDocs board management software allows you to enter in these steps along with their relative weight. Then, as various staffers manually enter in a new percentage as complete, the software represents that progress graphically on a dashboard that every board member sees every time they log on to the board portal.

The software can also streamline recordkeeping. On the user interface with the dashboard, there are links to the trail of notes and a list of next steps related to that goal. Keeping records becomes far easier; there's no scrambling at the end of the year to reconstruct what happened when.

Of course, everyone using the software must be trained in how to enter information for specified tasks to be recognized as goal-related activities and converted into a numerical representation of overall progress. One Texas school board using goal-tracking software requires its entire staff to attend weekend-long trainings offered over an 18-month period. It's important to choose a software vendor with a solid track record of training support.

How It Helps

Goal-tracking keeps board members focused all year long on whether or not prioritized objectives are being met. The dashboard can be placed as the first thing board members see when they log in, creating a visual reminder of progress toward goals. Monitoring progress on a regular basis has been shown to motivate all those whose work contributes to reaching goals, improving both persistence and morale – especially if the goals are both ambitious and specific. In over 400 studies, such monitoring improved outcomes 91% of the time.

Closely monitoring progress toward goals may even become a requirement for school boards. In an effort to solve challenges for underperforming districts, the Texas Department of Education implemented legislation mandating close goal-tracking (the Lone-Star Governance Act). It even requires each board meeting agenda to have at least 50% of the items for discussion measurably related to one or more of the goals of the district. State officials can attend board meetings to keep an eye on compliance. Board members must have the goals of the district committed to memory. Other states have been in touch with Texas expressing interest in the legislation.

Conclusion

A goal-tracking feature of board management software helps boards meet their goals. The visual indication of progress that it provides empowers board members to conduct the executive oversight that is their shared responsibility. Without such a compass, how can a board be expected to steer the ship? Technology puts the board in the driver's seat where they belong.

To learn more please visit: <https://engage.boarddocs.com/VSBA>

¹Edwin Locke and Gary Latham, *A Theory of Goal Setting and Task Performance*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall 1990



BoardDocs®

A DILIGENT BRAND



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.



Johnson Controls, Inc.

Global leader in energy efficiency and energy performance contracting for public schools.

Chris Kaiser
Phone: (412) 888-9748
Email: chris.kaiser@jci.com
Website: <http://www.johnsoncontrols.com>



OWPR, Inc.

OWPR, Inc. is a Full Service Architecture and Engineering Firm specializing in Educational Facility Design

Allegra Enochs
Phone: (540) 552-2151
Email: aenochs@owpr.com
Website: <http://www.owpr.com>



Education Solutions Services (ESS)

Committed to providing staffing solutions for substitute teachers and administrative staff.

Russell Leboff
Phone: (804) 380-7466
Email: rleboff@ess.com
Website: <http://www.ess.com>

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

VSBA: School Board News Podcast

A monthly bite-sized podcast hosted by Executive Director, Gina Patterson.

Join us as we discuss the topics you need to know about to lead, advocate and support your division.

For questions email podcast@vsba.org



Listen by visiting our website!

Also available on:



iTunes



Spotify

Ask the Legal Expert

- Q. Can a school board member work for the school division?**
- A. No.** Virginia law states that no one may be employed by a school board on which the person serves.

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

Current VSBA Superintendent Searches

Nottoway County
Essex County

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



UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

May 15, 2019

Webinar: Building a High-Impact Board/Superintendent Partnership

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: Join this webinar to hear real life examples and exercises that illustrate key aspects of the board-superintendent partnership. You will be provided detailed, practical, thoroughly tested guidance on building and maintaining a close, productive, and enduring board-superintendent partnership. You will also receive up-to-date information on significant developments in the rapidly changing field of K-12 governance.

June 7, 2019

VSBA School Law Conference

LOCATION: Short Pump Hilton

DETAIL: Your school division needs you, your superintendent, and your attorney to be at the 2019 VSBA School Law Conference. Why? Because many of the decisions you make have legal implications that will impact your school division for years to come. Hear school law updates from the national and local perspective as well as learn about the legal authority and your role as a school board. Attend this conference to be informed and be prepared!

Sponsored by:



July 22, 2019

VSBA Orientation for Chairs and Vice-Chairs

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Have you recently been selected as your school board's new chair or vice-chair? If so, don't miss the VSBA Orientation for New Chairs/Vice-Chairs, 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 chair, handling media inquires, parliamentary procedure, optimizing the chair/superintendent relationship, and ethical considerations as a board chair. Join us for a day filled with learning, as well as an opportunity to network with other new chairs and vice-chairs from across Virginia!

Sponsored by:



July 22, 2019

VSBA Orientation for New School Board Members, & Superintendents

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Becoming a new school board member or superintendent is an honor and a privilege. Enjoy a successful and less stressful transition by attending the VSBA Orientation for New Board Members & Superintendents. Many important topics will be covered, including 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:



July 23, 2019

VSBA Conference on Education

LOCATION: Richmond Marriott

DETAIL: Attendees will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of mini-workshops which highlight successful practices in Virginia's school divisions. Participants will leave with many great insights and practical ideas. After the round table presentations, attendees will break into regional meetings to discuss pertinent issues coming up for their particular regions. During lunch, the Food for Thought awards and the VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award will be announced.

Sponsored by:



August 9, 2019

FREE WEBINAR: The Shared Responsibility of Cyber Security

LOCATION: Online

DETAIL: Regardless of your size, no organization is immune to the ever more pervasive threat of cyber crime, and your security is only as strong as its weakest link. That is why it is imperative that not only your IT staff, but all employees are educated at every level. This webinar will offer a basic introduction to the world of cyber security while focusing primarily on the practical steps that you can take as an individual as well as an organization in order to avoid being victimized by a cyber attack.

School Board Candidates Webinar

Do you have a candidate running for school board in your city or county? VSBA has put together a free webinar that is available on-demand for school board candidates.

To access the webinar, visit: http://www.vsba.org/meetings_conferences/webinars_on_demand/



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Norfolk City



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COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Iris A. Lane
Westmoreland County



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FEDERAL RELATIONS
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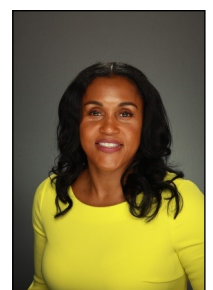
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**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Gina G. Patterson

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.