

2023 VASS Annual Spring Conference

April 23-25 – Hotel Roanoke

“Challenges and Solutions”

Sunday, April 23

- 8:30 am – 3:25 pm **The Virginia Transformational Leadership Academy** – *Pocahontas Room*
- Sponsored by VASS Associate Partners Education Elements and Participate Learning
- Noon – 5:00 pm **Moseley Golf Tournament** – *Hanging Rock*
- Sponsored by VASS Partner Moseley Architects and VASS Associate Partner Mark III Employee Benefits
- 1:00 – 5:00 pm **Wellness Activity: Spa Treatments** – *Hotel Roanoke Spa*
- Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Age of Learning and VASS Partner Moseley Architects
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm **Wellness Activity: Yoga Class** – *Wilson Room*
- Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Newsela
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Wellness Activity: Meditation Class** – *Wilson Room*
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm **VASS Board of Directors Meeting** – *Pocahontas Room*
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm **Moseley Reception** – *Roanoke Ballroom Foyer*
- Sponsored by VASS Partner Moseley Architects
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm **VASS Board of Directors Dinner** – *Hotel Roanoke Regency Private Dining Room*
- Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner OneDigital and VASS Senior Associate Partner Pierce Insurance Agency
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm **New Superintendents Dinner** – *Hotel Roanoke Regency Private Dining Room*
- Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner American Fidelity
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm **Women Superintendents Dinner** – *Hotel Roanoke Regency Private Dining Room*
- Sponsored by VASS Senior Partners K12 Insight and Just Right Reader
- 9:00 – 11:00 pm **Hospitality Suite** – *Room 474*
- Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner TCG Services, a HUB International Company

Monday, April 24

7:00 – 8:00 am **Breakfast** (1 hr.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*
Sponsored by VASS Sponsors Ballou Justice Upton Architects

7:45 – 8:00 am **VaSCL Annual Business Meeting** (15 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

8:00 – Noon **OPENING SESSION**
Presiding:
Mike Gill, VASS President and Division Superintendent, Hanover County

8:00 – 8:20 am **Opening Remarks** (20 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*
Mike Gill, VASS President and Division Superintendent, Hanover County

8:20 – 8:45 am **Ignite Sessions: “One Big Idea”** (25 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*
Sponsored by VASS Senior Partners American Fidelity, Apptegy and Frontline Learning, and Prisms of Reality, VASS Partner Right at School, and VASS Associate Partners DLR Group and Econergy
Region I – Melody Hackney, Division Superintendent, Hopewell City
Region III – Marci Catlett, Division Superintendent, Fredericksburg City
Region V – Garrett Smith, Division Superintendent, Staunton City
Region VII – Rob Graham, Division Superintendent, Radford City

8:45 – 9:25 am **Panel Presentation: “Trending Legal Issues Affecting Parents, Students, and Employees”** (40 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*
Sponsored by VASS Partner Pierce Group Benefits and VASS Senior Associate Partners Grand Canyon University, Infinite Campus, ST Math–Mind Research, and Stantec, and VASS Associate Partners College Board, Crabtree Rohrbaugh and Associates, and Edmentum
Moderator:
Micah Schwartz, Partner, Williams Mullen and VASS Legal Counsel
Panelists:
Mandi Smith, Partner, Timberlake Smith
Daniel Masakayan, Associate, McGuire Woods
Brad King, Attorney, Sands Anderson
Jason Ballum, Attorney, Sands Anderson

9:25 – 9:35 am **Transition** (10 min.)

9:35 – 10:20 am **Break-out sessions** (45 min.)
Knowledge Building:

“Parents’ Rights” – Crystal Ballroom

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner K12 Insight

Introduction:

Eric Bond, Region V Representative, VASS Board of Directors and Division Superintendent, Augusta County

Presenter:

Mandi Smith, Partner, Timberlake Smith

Knowledge Building:

“Transgender Students’ Rights & Title IX” – Roanoke Ballroom E

Sponsored by VASS partner McGuire Woods

Introduction:

Jason Van Heukelum, Division Superintendent, Winchester City

Presenter:

Daniel Masakayan, Associate, McGuire Woods

Knowledge Building:

“Employee Due Process Issues” – Roanoke Ballroom F

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Sands Anderson

Introduction:

Peter Noonan, Region IV Representative, VASS Professional Learning Committee and Division Superintendent, Falls Church City

Presenter:

Brad King, Attorney, Sands Anderson

Knowledge Building:

“Legal Issues in Special Education” – Roanoke Ballroom G

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Mark III Employee Benefits

Introduction:

Verletta White, Region VI Representative, VASS Legislative Committee and Division Superintendent, Roanoke City

Presenter:

Jason Ballum, Attorney, Sands Anderson

Knowledge Building:

“Changes in Virginia Codes Affecting Superintendent Employment, Negotiating Your Contract, and Ethics Tips” – *Roanoke Ballroom H*

Sponsored by VASS Partner Moseley Architects

Introduction:

Clint Mitchell, Region III Representative, VASS Professional Learning Committee and Division Superintendent, Colonial Beach

Presenter:

Micah Schwartz, Partner, Williams Mullen and VASS Legal Counsel

Problem Solving and Discussion:

Problem solving legal issues using Solution Circles – *Buck Mountain Room*

10:20 – 10:30 am

Transition (10 min.)

10:30 – 11:15 am

Repeat Break-out sessions (45 min.)

11:15 – 11:25 am

Transition (10 min.)

11:25 – 11:55 am

Sharing Sessions – random seating (30 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

11:55 – Noon

Transition (5 min.)

Noon – 1:15 pm

VASS Annual Awards Luncheon and Recognitions (75 mins.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner OneDigital, VASS Senior Associate Partner RRMM Architects, and VASS Associate Partners Boardworks, Air Mechanical, Audio Enhancement, Better Lesson, FEV Tutor, and School of Innovations & Achievement

Presiding:

Mike Gill, VASS President and Division Superintendent, Hanover County

Welcoming Remarks:

David Woodard, President, Virginia School Boards Association

Recognizing the 2022-23 VASS Board and Committee Members

Recognizing the 2023 VTLA Graduates

Recognizing Retiring Superintendents

Regional Superintendents of the Year Awards

Virginia Superintendent of the Year Award

12:15 – 2:00 pm

Aspiring Superintendents Program Luncheon – *Appalachian Room*

1:15 – 1:25 pm

Transition (10 min.)

1:25 – 3:00 pm

AFTERNOON SESSION

Presiding:

Keith Perrigan, VASS Secretary/Treasurer and Division Superintendent, Bristol City

1:25 – 2:05 pm

Panel Presentation and Discussion: “The Virginia Literacy Act – Why it Matters and How it’s Doable” (40 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Sponsored by VASS Partner Horace Mann and VASS Associate Partners Dreambox, Kloud12, Lexia Learning, McGraw Hill, Newsela, NWEA, and Paper

Moderator:

Rebecca Walters, Region V Representative, VASS Professional Learning Committee and Division Superintendent, Lexington City

Panelists:

Jenna Conway, Deputy Superintendent, Virginia Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Care and Education

Emily Solari, Faculty, University of Virginia School of Education

Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent, Virginia Department of Education Division of School Quality, Instruction and Performance

Faye Bradley, Assistant Professor of Teaching and Learning, Virginia State University

2:05 – 2:15 pm

Transition (10 min.)

2:15 – 3:00 pm

Break-out sessions (45 min.)

Knowledge Building:

“Reading Science 101: Background Information and Resources for Implementation” – *Roanoke Ballroom E*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Age of Learning

Introduction:

Kelvin Edwards, Division Superintendent, Greensville County

Presenter:

Emily Solari, Faculty, University of Virginia School of Education

Planning and Implementation:

“Urban and Rural School Division Efforts to Address the VLA” – *Roanoke Ballroom F*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Curriculum Associates

Moderator:

Sarah Calveric, VASS Professional Learning Committee Co-Chair and Division Superintendent, Caroline County

Panelists:

Melissa Goodwin, Supervisor of English Language Arts, Chesapeake Public Schools

Ellena Baker, ELA Coordinator, Chesapeake Public Schools

Tracie Brandana, ELA Coordinator, Chesapeake City Public Schools

Kimberly Williams, Directory of Elementary Instruction, Smyth County Public Schools

Diane Frye, Smyth County Public Schools

Planning and Implementation:

“Suburban and Rural School Division Efforts to Address the VLA” – *Roanoke Ballroom G*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Just Right Reader

Moderator:

Merv Daugherty, Region I Representative, VASS Professional Learning Committee and Division Superintendent, Chesterfield County

Panelists:

Lesley Hughes, Chief Learning Officer, Henrico County Public Schools

Lori Keister, Literacy Coach, Radford City Public Schools

Resources and Training:

“Resources and Training to Help You Address the VLA” – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Panel discussion featuring **vendors who are proceeding to Phase II** of the VDOE core curriculum review process

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Imagine Learning, VASS Senior Associate Partner Benchmark Education, and VASS Associate Partners HMH, McGraw Hill, Open Up Resources

Moderator:

Kristy Somerville-Midgette, VASS President-elect and Division Superintendent,
Brunswick County

Panelists:

Bonnie Long, National Curriculum Specialists, Imagine Learning

Lisa Gonzalez, Director of Professional Learning, VASS Senior Associate
Benchmark Education

Erin Kinard, Senior Vice President of Product Management for Core Business,
HMH

Sarah Nager, ELA Academics Director, VASS Associate Partner Open Up
Resources

? McGraw Hill

Problem Solving and Discussion:

Problem solving staffing, training and resource issues using Solution Circles –
Roanoke Ballroom H

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Wellness Activity: Spa Treatments – *Hotel Roanoke Spa*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Age of Learning

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wellness Activity: Clay Pottery Making Class – *Brush Mountain Room*

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Commonwealth Clean-Energy

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wellness Activity: Introduction to Painting with Acrylics – *Tinker Mountain Room*

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Kloud-12

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Wellness Activity: Yoga Class – *Wilson Room*

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Wellness Activity: Axe Throwing – *Depart from Valet Station in front of Hotel*
Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Just Right Reader

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Wellness Activity: Shooting Gallery – *Depart from Valet Station in front of Hotel*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Just Right Reader

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wellness Activity: Roanoke History and Culture Walking Tour – *Depart from Hotel Lobby*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Just Right Reader

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Wellness Activity: Adult Beverage Walking Tour – *Depart from Valet Station in front of Hotel*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Imagine Learning

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm **Wellness Activity: Adult Beverage Bus Tour** – *Depart from Valet Station in front of Hotel*

Sponsored by Cambridge International

5:30 – 7:00 pm **Reception** – *Center in the Square Penthouse*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Associate Partner K12 Insight, VASS Partners Pierce Group Benefits and Right at School and VASS Associate Partners Commonwealth Clean-Energy, Discovery Education, Participate Learning and Renaissance

Tuesday, April 25

7:00 – 8:00 am **Breakfast** (1 hr.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Associate Partner VACORP

7:00 – 8:00 am **VASS Partner Advisory Committee Meeting** – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

8:00 – 8:15 am **VASS Annual Business Meeting** (15 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

8:15 – 11:30 am CLOSING SESSION

Presiding:

Kristy Somerville-Midgette, VASS President-elect and Division Superintendent, Brunswick County

8:15 – 8:35 am **Opening Remarks and Door Prize Drawings** (20 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Kristy Somerville-Midgette, VASS President-elect and Division Superintendent, Brunswick County

8:35 – 9:15 am **Panel Discussion: “Addressing the Mental Health Challenges in Our Schools”** (40 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partners Discovery Education, Education Elements, KinderCare Education, Sibme, TCG, The Nutrition Group, Veritiv, VMDO, and VRSA

Moderator:

Rob Graham, VASS Professional Learning Committee Co-Chair and Division Superintendent, Radford City

Panelists:

Julia Taylor, UVA Associate Professor of Education and Co-Director of the Virginia Partnership for School Mental Health

Noelle Bissell, Health Director, New River Health District, Virginia Department of Health

Holly Lesko, Program Director, New River Valley Regional Commission

J. Lynne Winebarger, Program Director, School-based & TDT, New River Valley Community Services

Kristen Mosby, Guidance Counselor, Radford High School, Radford City Public Schools

Amanda Preedom, New River Valley Pediatrics

9:15 – 9:25 am

Transition (10 min.)

9:25 – 9:55 am

Regional Discussions (30 min.)

9:55 – 10:05 am

Transition (10 min.)

10:05 – 10:50 am

Break-out sessions (45 min.)

Knowledge Building:

“State Agency Efforts to Address School Mental Health” – *Roanoke Ballroom E*

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner rethinkED

Moderator:

Annette Bennett, Region VIII Representative, VASS Professional Learning Committee and Division Superintendent, Appomattox County

Panelists:

Noelle Bissell, Health Director, New River Health District, Virginia Department of Health

Holly Lesko, Program Director, New River Valley Regional Commission

J. Lynne Winebarger, School-based Clinician Supervisor, New River Health District, Virginia Department of Health

Amanda Preedom, New River Valley Pediatrics

Julia Taylor, UVA Associate Professor of Education and Co-Director of the Virginia Partnership for School Mental Health

Michael Lyons, UVA Assistant Professor of Education and Co-Director of the Virginia Partnership for School Mental Health

Katy Zeanah, Program Manager, the Virginia Partnership for School Mental Health

Planning and Implementation:

“Urban & Rural School Divisions’ Efforts to Address School Mental Health” – *Roanoke Ballroom G*

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Catapult Learning-SESI

Moderator:

Jeff Smith, Region II Representative, VASS Professional Learning Committee and Division Superintendent, Hampton City

Panelists:

Trena Hatcher, Executive Director of Human Support Services, Hampton City Public Schools

Heather Peterson, Director of Climate and Culture, Hampton City Public Schools

Herb Monroe, Assistant Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools

Brandie Williams, Deputy Executive Director for Rappahannock Areas Community Service Board

Resources and Services

“How the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety can Help You Address the Mental Health Challenges in Your Division” – *Roanoke Ballroom H*

Sponsored by VASS Associate Partner Centegix

Introducer:

Elie Bracy, III, Region II Representative, VASS Board of Directors and Division Superintendent, Portsmouth City

Presenter:

Shellie Evers, Coordinator, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS)

Resources and Services:

“Resources and Services to Help You Address the Mental Health Challenges in Your School Divisions” – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Associate Partner Rivermont New Story Schools and VASS Associate Partners Care Solace and Wayfinder

Moderator:

Zeb Talley, VASS Past President and Division Superintendent, Martinsville City

Panelists:

Sarah Struckmann, Business Development Executive, VASS Senior Partner OneDigital

Jennifer Younger, Vice President of Behavioral Services, VASS Senior Associate Partner Rivermont New Story Schools

Elise Seymour, Regional Director of Educational Partnerships, VASS Associate Partner Rethink Ed

Susan Dean, Director of Strategic Partners, VASS Associate Partner Catapult Learning – SESI

Ann Ridgway, Regional Director of K-12 Partnerships, VASS Associate Partner Care Solace

Morgan Joseph, Chief of Marketing, VASS Associate Partner Wayfinder

Problem Solving and Discussion:

Problem solving mental health issues using Solution Circles – *Appalachian Room*

10:50 – 11:00 am

Transition (10 min.)

11:00 – 11:25 am

Ignite Sessions: “Your Why – What Keeps You Going in the Superintendency”
(25 min.) – *Roanoke Ballroom A-D*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Associate Partner Pierce Insurance Agency and VASS Associate Partners Participate Learning, Paymerang, PowerSchool, Renaissance, S.B. Ballard, Sun Tribe Solar, and Teach Upbeat

Region II – Olwen Herron, Division Superintendent, Williamsburg-James City County

Region IV – David Jeck, Division Superintendent, Fauquier County

Region VI – Bernie Bragen, Division Superintendent, Montgomery County

Region VIII – Chip Jones, Division Superintendent, Cumberland County

11:25 - 11:30 am

Adjournment (5 min.)

Noon – 1:00 pm

Special Luncheon Presentation (optional): “Innovative Instruction that will Reinvigorate Your Enthusiasm for the Key Division Leadership Role” – *The Virginia Room*

Sponsored by VASS Senior Partner Prisms of Reality

Featuring Prisms of Reality Founder & CEO and motivational speaker **Anurupa Ganguly**