



116 W. Beverley Street
Staunton, Virginia 24401
Phone 540-332-3920 • Fax 540-332-3924
www.staunton.k12.va.us

NEWS

July 22, 2015 – School Board Members Attend VSBA Conference on Education

Contact: Brenda Lovekamp
School Board Clerk
540-332-3920

School Board Members Attend VSBA Conference on Education

(STAUNTON, VA) Staunton City School Board's chairman, Ronald Ramsey and members Bob Boyle and Amy Darby were among nearly 400 Virginia school board members, educators, governing officials, attorneys, and legislators who attended the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) 30th annual Conference on Education in Richmond, Virginia on July 21, 2015. The purpose of the conference was to offer participants the opportunity to learn about successful educational practices occurring throughout the state.

Participants had the opportunity to attend their choice of more than 40 mini-workshops on topics such as personnel, finance, career and technical education, curriculum and instruction, partnerships, school/community relations, school law, STEM education, and virtual/blended learning. The presenters included educators from state and local levels, university and college professors, business representatives, and attorneys. Mrs. Darby commented, "The conference was a great experience. It was wonderful to hear more about the successful initiatives and programs happening in other school divisions across the Commonwealth."

Staunton City Schools' Director of Technology, Mr. Tom Lundquist, and Dr. Michael Ormsmith, Instructional Supervisor conducted a mini-workshop titled, *Telling Your Story: Building a Division Communication Plan*. Both were on hand to provide information and to discuss the many methods being used by the school division to engage the community as a whole by keeping community members informed about the successes the schools and students are enjoying, as well as the challenges the schools are facing. Mr. Lundquist shared, "The attendees at our roundtable presentations learned about the intentional and proactive communication methods used by Staunton City Schools. Engaged attendees learned the importance of school divisions using a variety of media distribution channels to reach their community."

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