

### September 19, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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### Grogan Attends Legislative Advocacy Conference

The Virginia School Board Association hosted their annual Legislative Advocacy Conference in Charlottesville on September 11, 2014. Staunton School Board member Jody Grogan and Superintendent Dr. Linda Reviea attended the Conference to better prepare for public education issues likely to arise during the 2015 General Assembly session opening in January.

Nearly 200 school board members and superintendents spent the day in Charlottesville learning more about best practices in state-level advocacy and 'hot topics' in education policy. State Board of Education members and legislators from both chambers of the legislature presented panel discussions and interacted with attendees on issues such as assessment, virtual learning, and education funding.

"Along with learning more about the policy issues, I brought back more ways to build support within our community and with our elected representatives for generating more resources and help with educating our students," Grogan said.

Conference sessions included: "Hot Topic: The State of Broadband Access in the Commonwealth and the Future of Virtual Learning," "Federal Education Issues: What's Next?," "State Education Issues: Legislators' View," "Successes in Grassroots Advocacy," and "Conversations with the Virginia Board of Education: Guidelines for Local Alternative Assessments for 2014-15."



Staunton City School Board member, Jody Grogan

## Peaceful School Buses

This school year, Staunton City’s elementary schools are implementing the Peaceful School Bus Program. The intent of the program is to change the social dynamics of the school bus by building strong, positive relationships among the students and the bus driver, thus creating a climate of mutual respect and cooperation where the students learn to be responsible bus riders. The program also addresses bullying, what behavior is and is not acceptable, as well as teaching students about their role in preventing bullying. “The Peaceful School Bus Program is a great addition to our overall school safety and security plan and will help to create a positive start and finish to every school day,” said Dr. Jelisa Wolfe, Executive Director of Student Services.

To begin the program, elementary staff separated the students into “bus route groups” within the school buildings for their first meeting. The students participated, along with their bus driver, in various team building exercises. The students signed a pledge stating that students and driver will work together to make their rides to and from school more pleasant and enjoyable for all.

"We are excited about the possibilities this program has to offer. It works on strengthening relationships between everyone in Staunton City Schools and the ties with our families in our community," said Mrs. Barker, Principal of Ware Elementary School.



A bus group meets with their bus driver, Mr. Boll as a part of the Peaceful Bus program.