

December 4, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Tip Sheet

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

School Board Members Attend Annual Convention

The Staunton City School Board members, along with Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent, attended the Virginia School Boards Association's annual convention in Williamsburg, November 19–21. More than 1,000 school board members, superintendents, and other education officials attended this event, which is held annually and provides education leaders the opportunity to learn about nationwide and statewide trends and to meet with and learn from other educational leaders. This year's convention included more than fifty hot topic seminars and workshops pertinent to public education issues, such as boardsmanship, school law, school construction, virtual/blended learning, school improvement and many more.

Staunton City Schools was well-represented at the conference, not only by the attendance of all six board members, but also by Dr. Linda Reviea, who was co-presenter at the session entitled, "Behind the Wall" which offered considerations for a successful technology program, and by three students from Shelburne Middle School who, along with their teacher Mr. Wayne Zink, provided a presentation about the new BETA program being piloted at Shelburne this year. School Board Chair, Mr. Ronald W. Ramsey, was also installed as the Chair of the Valley Region, and as such, will serve the coming year on the VSBA Board of Directors.



Imani Hankinson, Brooklyn Kier and Alex Hardy of Shelburne Middle School prepare for their presentation at the VSBA Annual Convention in Williamsburg, VA

McSwain Students Create Beaks that Fit the Bill

As a part of their study of physical and behavioral adaptations, students in Ms. Barney's fifth grade class at McSwain Elementary School were asked to make a bird beak. They were provided supplies such as a wrapping paper tube, pipe cleaners, tape, toothpicks, aluminum foil and paper clips. Their task was to create a beak that could capture and hold a large marshmallow, which was used to represent the bird's food. The students quickly learned that this was a difficult task which required adaptation from their original thoughts and plans -- much the way that birds have adapted over time to their environments. The students worked hard, adapting when necessary, and were thrilled with the successful end result.



McSwain fifth grade students work with the bird beaks they created in their study of physical and behavioral adaptations.