



VSBA Advocate for Education Award

The VSBA invites your board to nominate a board member for the inaugural *VSBA Advocate for Education Award*, to be presented at the VSBA Annual Convention in November. This award was created to recognize board members who have demonstrated significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contribution to public education that has had an impact on their region and the Commonwealth, and who have shown active involvement in local, state, and federal advocacy on behalf of their division, VSBA, and public education.

Each local school board may submit one name/nomination for consideration. The nomination must be the consensus of the school board, and the nominee must be a current school board member.

Nomination forms (see following page) are due **July 31, 2015**. The selection committee will review the nominations and select the award winner(s). The award may be conferred upon one or more school board members.

Questions?

Contact Emily Webb, government relations coordinator, at 434-295-8722 or emily@vsba.org.



VSBA Advocate for Education Nomination Form

Robert A. Houck

Nominee Name

Culpeper County Public Schools

School Division

450 Radio Lane, Culpeper, VA 22701

School Division Mailing Address

(540) 825-3677

(540) 829-2111

School Division Phone Number

School Division Fax Number

Elizabeth S. Hutchins

School Board Chairman

Dr. Bobbi F. Johnson

Superintendent

In 1000 words or less, describe how the nominee demonstrated significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contribution to public education that had an impact on their region and the Commonwealth. Further, describe how the nominee illustrated their involvement in local, state, and federal advocacy on behalf of their division, VSBA, and public education.

Our board has discussed and voted unanimously to approve this nomination.

Board Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk: _____ Date: _____

Nomination forms must be submitted by July 31, 2015.

Please retain a copy for your files and email or fax to Emily Webb, government relations coordinator, at emily@vsba.org or 434-295-8785.

Robert “Bob” Houck has been an outstanding leader for the Culpeper County School Board and the entire school system during his time on the School Board. Bob was selected by the School Board to finish out the term of a member who resigned in July 2009. He then ran on his own to finish the term in November 2009 and ran again for a full term in November 2011. Bob caught on very quickly and served as Chair from 2012-2014. He currently serves as Vice Chair.

He has encouraged all board members to avail themselves of every opportunity for improving and updating their knowledge on the role of a school board member. He held new member orientations for new members to insure that they started on good footing. Included in those orientations, Bob stressed the importance of keeping informed on legislative issues that affect our system and all the school systems in Virginia.

Throughout his tenure, Bob has attended every legislative conference held by VSBA where we visited with our legislators in Richmond. In addition, Bob, along with the Superintendent and School Board, invited our state legislators to Culpeper to discuss our concerns and visit our schools each year. Bob was diligent in contacting our state and federal legislators by email on legislation that was introduced each session. The local Chamber of Commerce holds a Legislative Breakfast each year, inviting our state representatives and Bob attended and sometimes presented at these events.

Bob stayed in touch with our local Board of Supervisors, engaging them in conversation throughout the year to maintain the line of communication. Bob served as a member of the Career Partners, a partnership with local businesses which offers students the opportunity to learn skills necessary in the business world and awards scholarships. He has served on the Career & Technical Advisory Board to provide input as a School Board member and as a private business owner. Bob has served on the Board’s Capital Planning Committee, Finance Committee and Administrative Committee.

Bob has served as the Central Virginia Regional Vice-Chair for two years. He has served as the Board’s Delegate to the VSBA Delegate Assembly for three years. He attends the Hot Topic Conferences and regional meetings. He has reached the Award of Distinction and received a starfish pin.

Bob spoke at numerous community meetings to help the public understand the need for the bond referendum to renovate our 40 year old high school. As a result of his efforts, and the efforts of others, the referendum was successful and the renovation is nearly complete. He has continued to speak, when asked, at local meetings to keep the citizens informed on what is happening in our schools.

Bob can be found at school plays, concerts, banquets, and other events, showing his support for the well-rounded student. He has given words of encouragement to individual students as he has had the opportunity, stressing the importance of education to their future.

In addition, Bob has been an officer of the Lignum Ruritan Club. This club raises funds to offer scholarships to local graduating seniors. The Ruritans also invite school staff to attend meetings to inform their members on issues facing the school system. Bob, also, sits on the Board of Trustees for Bluefield College to assist with the governance of that institution continuing his interest and support for the education of young people. He currently chairs the Faculty and Curriculum Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Bob has been dedicated to providing the best education possible for the students of Culpeper County. He has worked tirelessly to help our legislators to understand the implication of bills presented in the General Assembly, the implications of budget decisions on students and staff, and the demands that are placed on the localities to continue to serve the needs of our children.

Therefore, the Culpeper County School Board, nominates Robert "Bob" Houck for the VSBA Advocate for Education Award for 2015.