

VASS-VASBO WINTER CONFERENCE 2021



JANUARY 11-12, 2021

Virtual Winter Conference



Facilitated by  VIRGINIA
ED STRATEGIES

VASS-VASBO WINTER CONFERENCE 2021

Monday, January 11, 9am-2pm

9:00am WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Scott Brabrand, VASS President and Division Superintendent, Fairfax County
Christina Berta, VASBO President and Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance, Virginia Department of Education

9:10am ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET AND THE STATE BUDGET

Jim Regimbal, Co-founder, Fiscal Analytics

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9:50am POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR THE 2021 SESSION AND THEIR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Honorable Eileen Filler-Corn, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable Ghazala Hashmi, Senate of Virginia
The Honorable John Avoli, Virginia House of Delegates

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10:30am COVID 19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES AND THEIR IMPACT ON SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Megan Healy, Chief Workforce Advisor to the Governor, Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

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11:00am PANEL DISCUSSION: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL DIVISIONS

Brenda Pike, Executive Director, VEA

Stephen Devita, Division Counsel, Loudoun County Public Schools

Jeremy Bennett, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, VACO

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11:30am BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Lessons Learned During the Pandemic to Improve Learning and Instruction

Scott Kizner, Chair, VASS Professional Learning Committee, and Division Superintendent, Stafford County

Jared Cotton, Division Superintendent, Chesapeake City

Sarah Calveric, Division Superintendent, Caroline County

Ensuring Students Stay Engaged and On Track- The Critical Role of Data

Jeff Carew, Managing Director, Forecast5 Analytics

Innovative Staffing Solutions for Challenging Times

Rob Graham, Division Superintendent, Radford City

Enhancing Communication about the Relationship between Instruction and Finance

Christina Berta, VASBO President and Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance, Virginia Department of Education

Laura Abel, VASS President-elect and Division Superintendent, West Point

12:20pm PRESIDING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Laura Abel, VASS President-elect and Division Superintendent, West Point

Tina Copp, VASBO Vice President and Finance Director, Madison County

12:25pm THE STATUS OF BROADBAND ACCESS IN VIRGINIA

Evan Feinman, The Governor's Chief Broadband Advisor, Commonwealth of Virginia

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12:45pm BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

1:15pm THE STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDING AND WHAT TO EXPECT (INCLUDING A BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE E-RATE)

Noelle Ellerson Ng, Associate Executive Director of Advocacy and Governance, AASA

Elleka Yost, Government Affairs and Communications Manager, ASBO

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2021 VASS-VASBO VIRTUAL WINTER CONFERENCE PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS (IN ORDER OF PROGRAM APPEARANCE)

Jim Regimbal has 35 years of experience in state and local budget and tax policy analysis. He served for 12 years on the staff of the Virginia Senate Finance Committee starting in 1987, where he provided the Committee with expertise in tax policy, transportation and finance agency budgets, and economic and revenue forecasting.

In 1999, he co-founded Fiscal Analytics Ltd. where his knowledge of the state budget and developing policy options has been provided to local governments, business groups, trade associations, and nonprofit organizations. The Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia association of Counties, and the Virginia First Cities Coalition are currently among those employing his services.



Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, the first woman in the 400-year history of Virginia's Legislature to hold the position, rose to this role after representing the 41st House District since 2010. Her passion for service shines through her tireless work to make the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place to live, work and raise a family. Her commitment to improving the lives of her neighbors is what drove her to run for the House of Delegates.

As a member of the House Transportation Committee from 2011-2018 and a member of the Joint Commission on Transportation Accountability, the Speaker actively fought for years to improve transit in the Commonwealth. She carried the Omnibus Transportation Modernization Bill. Among many other important provisions, this legislation ensures the Commonwealth's transportation fund remains solvent and supports vital infrastructure to secure much-needed traffic relief for her constituents.

She has previously passed legislation making required higher education course materials, such as textbooks, more affordable, giving more Virginians the chance to succeed in post-secondary institutions.



Senator Ghazala Hashmi moved to the U.S. as a young girl with her family, over fifty years ago. She was raised in a small town in Georgia and saw firsthand how community-building and open dialogue can bridge cultural and socioeconomic divisions, uniting people from all walks of life. Ghazala earned a BA in English from Georgia Southern University and a Ph.D. in American literature from Emory University.

Ghazala and her husband Azhar moved to the Richmond area in 1991, and Ghazala has spent the past 30 years as a leading educator in Virginia's college and university system. She served both as a professor of English and as the Founding Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at Reynolds Community College.

Ghazala's approach to public service is guided by the principles of integrity, social justice and ethics in government. She is dedicated to making government work for all citizens. Ghazala is the first Muslim-American to serve in the Virginia State Senate.



Delegate John Avoli's life story symbolizes the American Dream. Born in a mountain top village in Italy, he came to the United States at age 10, settling with his family in the small West Virginia steel mill town of Weirton.

He graduated from Madonna High School, and earned a scholarship to play football and study at the University of Richmond. After his 1974 graduation from Richmond, John began a long career in public education by becoming a teacher and football and track coach at Wilson Memorial High School in Fishersville.

His political career started in 1990 when John ran for Staunton City Council. He served on the council for 16 years, including 14 as Staunton's mayor.



Megan Healy serves on Governor Northam's Cabinet as his Chief Workforce Development Advisor. As the Commonwealth's highest ranking workforce officer, she oversees a range of regional, state, and federal programs that connect Virginians to the skills, training, and opportunities they need to thrive in the 21st century economy. In addition to her partners within government, Secretary Healy works closely with Virginia's labor and business communities to identify and fill vacant jobs in high demand sectors.

Having started her career as science professor at Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, Secretary Healy keenly appreciates how education can change lives and communities. Prior to joining the Northam administration, she served as Virginia's first Director of STEM-H under Governor McAuliffe before returning to the Virginia Community College System as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academics. Secretary Megan Healy is a proud product of Virginia's public schools, holding a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, a master's from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a doctorate from Old Dominion University.





Dr. Brenda Pike, a former classroom teacher from Tennessee with extensive experience in union management, was named as the Executive Director of the Virginia Education Association in October of 2018. She is the organization's first female executive director. Brenda joined VEA after serving for two years as executive director with the Alabama Education Association. She previously served as chief executive with the Indiana State Teachers Association and has experience working with affiliates of the National Education Association in Tennessee and Texas. Brenda has had more than thirty years of bargaining experience from both the union and management perspectives beginning in the mid-1980's as teacher on her local union's bargaining team. As VEA's executive director she currently oversees the work of more than 60 staff at the Association's Richmond headquarters and in regional offices throughout the state.

Stephen DeVita has been Division Counsel with Loudoun County Public Schools since 2010. Previously, he was Chief Legal Counsel for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the Akron School District and was staff counsel for the Dayton Public Schools. In all 3 districts, he negotiated a wide variety of collective bargaining agreements. He has 37 years of overall legal experience and is a retired Air Force Colonel.



Jeremy Bennett joined the VACo Team on November 19, 2018. He is familiar with the challenges and opportunities faced by local elected officials as he most recently served as the Government Relations Specialist with the Virginia School Boards Association, where he advocated on behalf of public education before the General Assembly. Prior to that, he served for six years as congressional staffer focused on variety of issue areas including immigration, federal funding to municipalities, and agriculture. Jeremy holds a bachelor's degree from Colgate University.

Evan Feinman is the Executive Director of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (an economic development agency in Virginia) and Governor Northam's Chief Broadband Advisor. He previously served as Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, and as the Policy Director for the McAuliffe campaign and Deputy Policy Director for the McAuliffe transition. Evan has worked on multiple campaigns at the state and federal level, and at the Commonwealth Institute, a budget and fiscal policy think tank in Richmond. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, spent two years on a fellowship focused on energy and transportation policy, and then received his law degree from Washington and Lee University School of Law.

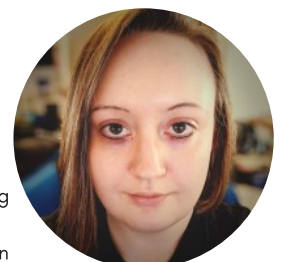


Noelle Ellerson Ng joined AASA in 2007 as a policy analyst. As associate executive director, she directs the advocacy and governance efforts of AASA. In this role she spearheads the organization's work with Congress and the U.S. Department of Education. Her team is responsible for representing the voice and priorities of the nation's public school superintendents in all aspects of federal education policy and uses member networks, outreach, policy analysis, and surveys and research to advance their work. She is responsible for the organization's governance work, including direct support and management for the executive committee and governing board, as well as our 49 chartered state affiliates.

She speaks regularly on federal education policy to school leaders across the country. Before coming to AASA, Ellerson Ng was a high school special education teacher in Central New York. She worked in state-level advocacy for the College Board while earning her master's degree.



Elleka Yost joined ASBO International in 2013 and is ASBO's Government Affairs and Communications Manager. She is responsible for managing ASBO's federal advocacy program and collaborates closely with ASBO's Legislative Advisory Committee to ensure school business professionals' voices are represented in legislative and regulatory issues impacting education and the profession. She also supports ASBO's Marketing & Communications team with media and public relations and curating content for various membership publications, toolkits, and other resources. Before her career at ASBO, Elleka was an editorial assistant and author for *The Diplomat Magazine*, an international affairs and news magazine for the Asia-Pacific region, and a faculty research assistant for George Mason University. For her undergraduate career, Elleka double majored in global affairs and classical languages and minored in business at George Mason University. She studied abroad in Beijing, China, and earned a certification in Chinese studies from Beijing Language and Culture University. During that time, Elleka worked as an English-language tutor for Chinese elementary and secondary students with TopWay Education English School. Elleka earned her master's degree from George Mason in global affairs, specializing in public policy and governance. She has published several blogs, articles, and toolkits on international affairs and public policy, education policy, leadership in education, and school business management.



VASS-VASBO WINTER CONFERENCE 2021

DAY 2

Tuesday, January 12, 9am-3pm

9:00am

WELCOME, RECOGNITION OF PARTNERS, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Christina Berta, VASBO President and Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance, Virginia Department of Education



9:20am

SCHOOL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES DIALOGUE

10:00am

VRS: PREPARING MEMBERS FOR TOMORROW, TODAY

Patricia Bishop, Director, Virginia Retirement System

Trish Bishop serves as the Director of the Virginia Retirement System, an \$85.1 billion public employee retirement system. Join us as we dive into how VRS is providing benefit administration to more than 742,000 members.



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11:00am

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Cashless Payments for Schools

Kristine Sipe, Edlio

In this session, we'll discuss why schools are moving to cashless payments. Learn how these online payment options helps the community, School Activity Fund Accounting, internal controls, and more. Plus, we'll discuss common pitfalls and what to look out for if you are reviewing cashless payments for your schools.

Helping Educators with Student Loan Debt

Jim Yale and John Edwards, Horace Mann

More than 60% of educators have student loan debt, and that debt weighs heavily on their decision to stay in the profession, join us to discuss what we can do about it!

Fiscally Adapting to Changing Needs of Faculty and the Protection of Students

Lauren Jones, The Supply Room

The current times call for continued emphasis on preparing our teachers and protecting our students. Join us as we discuss the PPE market and purchasing, budgeting for shifts in spending, and buying without solicitation of RFP's/IFB's.

Managing Cyber Risks

Mike Rezac, VACORP

Regardless of your size, no organization is immune to the ever more pervasive threat of cyber crime, and your security is only as strong as its weakest link. This training program offers a basic introduction to the world of cyber security while focusing primarily on the practical steps that you can take as an individual as well as an organization in order to avoid being victimized by a cyber attack.

12:00pm VASBO BUSINESS MEETING AND WORKING LUNCH

12:40pm ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

1:00pm PRESENTATION: CALCULATION TOOL OVERVIEW

Ed Lanza, Director, Budget Office, Virginia Department of Education



The Virginia Department of Education will provide an overview of its calculation template and the Annual School Report data collection.

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Gold sponsors **Pierce Group Benefits** and **RDA Systems**; and Silver Sponsors **Frontline Education** and **Keystone Information Systems**



2:00pm CLOSING SESSION

Denise Ryan, FireStar Speaking



Raleigh, North Carolina based professional speaker Denise Ryan is a motivational pyromaniac. Denise was a magna cum laude graduate of the University of South Carolina with a master's degree in business, and after earning millions for clients in the corporate world, Denise realized she had a talent for firing people up. Twenty years later, Denise motivates and energizes large corporations and small businesses across North America at conferences, virtual events, and annual meetings.

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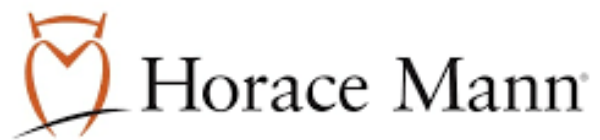


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