

The Virginia Principal Express ~ August 2007

Monthly Publication of the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals
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Your VAESP Board of Directors Prepares for the Year Ahead - An inside look at the 2007 Leadership Retreat

When principals' responsibilities were slowing down following the end of the 2006-07 school year, the work of the VAESP Board of Directors was just beginning. VAESP's officers, zone directors, representatives, and staff came together in Charlottesville from throughout the Commonwealth for the annual VAESP Board Retreat. Virtually the entire Board set aside July 9-11 to plan activities, tackle VAESP business, and set a path for the future, near and long-term.

After welcoming new members to the Board, we jumped into the first order of business, a presentation by Delegate Phillip Hamilton that included comments on education related legislative highlights from the 2007 General Assembly session, as well as discussion on how VAESP can continue to increase its advocacy and influence with state legislators. On Tuesday, Delegate David Toscano presented his thoughts on upcoming educational legislation. Both legislators ended their sessions by taking questions from the group. Kathleen Harris from the Virginia DOE provided detailed information on how legislation works its way through the House of Delegates, the Senate, and the Governor.

With a full agenda planned, we enjoyed a working lunch and were joined soon



VAESP President Barry Rosenberg thanks Delegate David Toscano for presenting his thoughts on upcoming education legislation.

after by Elizabeth Carlson, Assistant Executive Director of NAESP's Special Programs and Projects. Beth is spearheading the NAESP Vision 2021 initiative. In 2021, NAESP will celebrate 100 years of service to K-8 principals, so we are preparing for this landmark by envisioning the future of schools and the principalship. The VAESP Board was led through visioning activities by Beth; some of you may have done the same at the NAESP Convention in Seattle. Visit <http://vision2021.org> for more information on how you can take part in Vision 2021.

Prior to breaking for the evening, we discussed board responsibilities and shared ideas on how to be an effective Zone Director. President Rosenberg continued this theme with a presentation of his vision for the Association in 2007-08. He shared the research of the ASAE and Center for Association Leadership that became the book, 7 Measures of Success: What Remarkable Associations Do That Others Don't. Board members discussed the findings and how they can apply to our efforts to strengthen VAESP throughout the year. More on this will be shared in the upcoming edition of Virginia Principal.

Throughout the afternoon and Wednesday morning, the Board addressed operational updates and issues, signed up for various committees, and began the process of

reviewing packets for selecting VAESP Award recipients (which will be awarded at the VAESP Annual Principals Conference November 1st and 2nd). Dr. Shortt reported on our headquarters renovation, VAESP finances, and the 2007-08 operating budget. Updates on the Principals, Office Support Staff, and Assistant Principals/Lead Teachers conferences were also shared.

The Board adjourned until the October 31st meeting at the Annual Principals Conference in Williamsburg. Our thanks to the VAESP staff for making arrangements and preparing for the retreat and the VAESP Board members who contributed their time, energy and expertise.



The VAESP Board met to plan for another successful year.



Delegate Phillip Hamilton (right) presented legislative highlights to the Board. He is pictured with VAESP Executive Director Dr. Thomas Shortt and Southwest Zone Director Sandra Cole.

Important Reminders

- Your **2007-2008 VAESP Membership Renewal Packet** was mailed on August 15th. Please return your membership form to the VAESP office at your earliest convenience, or join online at www.vaesp.org. If you have not received your packet, contact VAESP at 804.355.6791.
- Register today for the **2007 Annual Principals Conference** to be held October 31 - November 2 at the Williamsburg Marriott. For more information, visit www.vaesp.org.