

VEA ESP CONFERENCE

October 12th – 13th in Richmond, VA

AEA sent five ESPs to the 3rd Annual ESP state conference. The year's theme was **Overcoming Barriers Together**. Some breakout sessions included Organizing for Political Action, Telling Your Story, Knowing Your Rights against Bullying, and Leadership Development. Interactive sessions and share-outs were highlights. Many thanks to **Kelly Bryant, Octavia Harris, Elaine Klutz, Claudette McBride, and Valerie Jackson-Smith**, who represented AEA very well at the professional conference. President Ingrid Gant and VEA UniServ Director Kelly Byrd were presenters. **National Education Support Professionals' Day will be celebrated on November 14, 2018.**

Arlington Education Association

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BUDGET CONCERNS

The School Board work session on Thursday, November 1st at the Syphax Education Center dealt with the budget recommendations from employee advisory groups. Members of the **Collaborative Professional Strategies Team (CPST)** and the **Employee Advisory Council (EAC)** gave recommended budgetary items. Some suggestions included funding for 0.5 testing coordinators for elementary schools without one, increasing Information Services TSS positions in line with SOQs, and coordinating with DHS and Arlington County government to provide funding for additional mental health professionals and school nurses.

AEA continues to advocate for a Cost of Living Adjustment for employees who are at the top of their scale and would not benefit financially from the step increase. Policy was passed two years ago to make sure the Superintendent includes the step increase in every budget. We look to the School Board to have the final say on whether this will happen.

AEA is watchful that the Superintendent will provide a "needs based budget" this year.

Kudos to **Kelly Caruthers and Kristen Johnston** for representing CPST and to **Wanda Gant, Milagros Martinez, Claudette McBride, and Regina Richardson** for representing EAC.

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**

Cut through the rhetoric and forget party labels. Be issue-driven and party-blind—your students, your colleagues, and your future depend on it!

Your Association-recommended candidates are: **Kaine, Beyer, de Ferranti, and Kanninen.**

Have **proper ID** when you go to the polls. Volunteer your time for candidates you support.

Make your vote count and urge others to vote too on **November 6th.**

PLANNING TIME AD-HOC COMMITTEE

The AEA Delegate Assembly passed a motion to look at master schedules throughout all elementary schools. The purpose behind this was to see if any schools have consecutive planning time daily for educators. Currently educators don't have daily planning time in all schools. Many secondary schools do have it, and even a few elementary schools, but it's not consistent. Policy states that teachers should have about 360 minutes of planning time weekly which would equal 45 minutes per day. However with CLTs and team meetings infringing on demands for time, it's more often than not that educators get less than the planning time they need.

AEA continues to look at this policy at CPST and this ad hoc committee may have concrete solutions after looking at the master schedules. At Meet and Confer, the AEA President asked for these master schedules and is waiting for them at this time. More to come!



VEA Mini-Grant Winner!

Congratulations to Swanson Middle School Teacher **Tammy Metz** who won a \$430 VEA Mini-Grant for her "Middle School Code-A-Thon Project."

In Memory of Ella Rawlings

Ella Rawlings had been with the association since 2014 and served as a Bus Driver for Arlington Public Schools..

Ella was a Building Representative, a member of SPARKS, attended Reggie Smith's Organizing School, and lobbied for Educators at VEA Lobby Day. Her services will be at **Abundant Life United Holy Church, 204 E Del Ray Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301 on November 3rd at 11:00am.** We continue to keep her family, colleagues, and friends in our thoughts and prayers! **#GONETOSOON**



AEA Committees / Chairs

Membership Committee

Leslie Stockton – Kenmore

AEA-ESP Advisory Committee

Claudette McBride–Transportation

Budget Committee

Javonnia Hill – Career Center

Compensation Committee

Josh Folb – New Directions Program

A-PAC (Political Action Committee)

Jeff Elkner – Career Center

Judith Knight- Treasurer, AEA-Retired

Ethics Committee

Leslie Stockton – Kenmore

Collaborative Professional Strategies Team

Members: Kelly Carruthers (Wakefield HS), Ingrid Gant (AEA), Marlena Dasbach (Carlin Springs, ES), Kristen Johnston (Washington – Lee, HS), Heather Downey (Barcroft, ES), Leslie Stockton (Kenmore MS). Michelle Lombard (DOI) & Jennifer Stacey (Henry ES), and Jaim Foster (Ashlawn ES) are alternates.

NOVA UniServ & District H Council

Members: Leslie Stockton (Chair), Ingrid Gant (VEA Board), Belinda Folb (Oakridge ES), Octavia Harris (Swanson MS), Sara Keys (Key

Calendar Development Process

The APS Calendar Committee held its first meeting October 26th with a look at a preliminary draft version of the FY19 school calendar. The draft calendar has teachers returning on Thursday, August 22nd for the first of seven pre-service days and winter break running from Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd giving two full weeks like this year.

One early draft calendar also has Indigenous People’s Day -Columbus Day (Oct. 14th) as a school holiday, Election Day (Nov. 5th) as a Professional Learning Day, and Veteran’s Day (Nov.11th) as a school day. An alternate option under consideration is to flip the holiday in October as a school day for Veteran’s Day to become the holiday. Both options include a full professional learning day on Friday, October 4th and a half-day on Wednesday, October 16th.

Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, will be seeking input on the calendar proposal(s) with various stakeholder groups over the next few weeks, including the AEA Delegate Assembly on November 19th. We’re anticipating getting the calendar to the Superintendent for his approval and to the school board by December.

VEA Names

Dr. Brenda Pike

New Executive Director

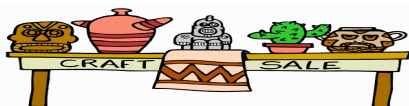
Tom Allen, VEA Communications, Immediate Release October 22, 2018

A former classroom teacher from Tennessee with extensive experience in union management, VEA names Dr. Brenda Pike as its new Executive Director

Pike will join VEA after serving as executive director with the Alabama Education Association since 2016. 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.

The VEA executive director oversees the work of more than 50 staff at the Association’s Richmond headquarters and in regional offices throughout the state. Pike is the VEA’s first female executive director. “We are truly fortunate to have found someone whose love of public education is matched by her track record of advocacy, leadership, and accomplishment,” VEA President Jim Livingston said. “Public education is the great equalizer—or should be,” said Pike. *“I am most passionate about creating, preserving, and improving forward-thinking education policy that creates access and opportunity for all students regardless of who they are or where they live. I view the union as the most important advocate for the institution of public education, students. and our members.”*

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



AEA VENDOR FAIR

When: Monday, November 19, 2018
Where: Kenmore Middle School
Time: 5-8 pm

(Proceeds benefit Membership Activities and APAC)

For more information contact Kelly Byrd, kbyrd@veanea.org

NEXT DELEGATE MEETING

When: Monday, November 19th
Where: Kenmore’s Library
Time: 4:30pm
Special Guest:
Erin Wales-Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources