

2009-2010 Annual Report

Weathering The Storm



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Design, photography
and writing by:
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Office of
Community Relations

Superintendent's Welcome

Welcome to our 2009-2010 Annual Report!

As I reflect on the 2009-10 school year, one phrase comes to mind:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...”

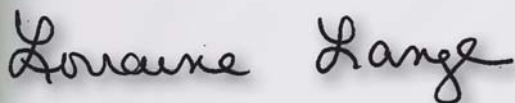
It's no secret that the economy had a dramatic effect on everyone, and Roanoke County Public Schools was no different. This year, the administration and the school board had to make some difficult and painful decisions, especially when it came to closing a school and eliminating programs. Our entire staff came together to find creative solutions to reducing expenses and I am pleased to report that we did not eliminate any full-time contracted employees. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Roanoke County School Board and the Board of Supervisors for their support of our school system. We are fortunate to have a good relationship with the Board of Supervisors. It is this relationship that helps ensure Roanoke County is a great place to live and Roanoke County Public Schools is a great place to learn.

While we had to do a lot of belt-tightening this year, the tough economy also worked to our benefit when it came to some much-needed improvement projects. As you will read in this report, we started construction on four renovation projects and began work to construct a new replacement elementary school.

While school leaders were concerned with financial concerns, our teachers remained focused on providing outstanding instruction to our students. Once again, every school in Roanoke County is fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. We continue to have one of the highest graduation rates in the region and our students continue to demonstrate their skills in the classroom and on the field.

I hope you enjoy this annual report. We enjoyed the opportunity to teach our students and help them grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine Lange". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

Lorraine Lange, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The Roanoke County School Board



Michael W. Stovall - Chairman *Vinton District*

Born and raised in Vinton, Mike Stovall was first elected to the Roanoke County School Board in 1994 and was re-elected in 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2009. He previously has served as school board chairman in 1997 and 2001. Stovall was named school board vice-chair in 1995 and 2000. He has worked as an investigator for the Vinton Police Department and currently owns and operates a driving instruction business.

E-mail: mstovall@rcs.k12.va.us



David M. Wymer - Vice-Chairman *Catawba District*

David Wymer was first elected to the Roanoke County School Board in 2007. He has served our schools for more than 30 years as a classroom teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, social studies supervisor, and associate director of testing and remediation. Wymer currently works as a PASS Coach for the Virginia Department of Education working with underachieving schools to reach school accreditation.

E-mail: dwymer@rcs.k12.va.us



C. Drew Barrineau *Windsor Hills District*

Drew Barrineau first was elected to the Roanoke County School Board in 2001 and was most recently re-elected in 2009. He served as school board vice-chair in 2004 and 2008 and was named school board chairman in 2005 and 2009. Barrineau holds a bachelors degree in accounting from Virginia Tech and is a certified public accountant.

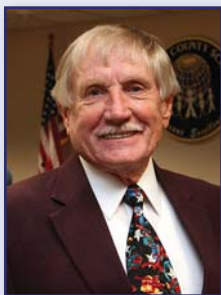
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Jerry L. Canada *Hollins District*

Jerry Canada has served on the Roanoke County School Board since 1992 when he was first appointed to the board. He was elected to the board in 1994 and has served as chairman four times, most recently in 2008. A native of West Virginia, Canada is a retired district manager for the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and currently works as a driving instructor.

E-mail: jcanada@rcs.k12.va.us



H. Odell "Fuzzy" Minnix *Cave Spring District*

A graduate of Roanoke County Public Schools, Fuzzy Minnix was a long-time member of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, serving for 12 years, including three years as chairman. Minnix was elected to the Roanoke County School Board in 2007. He coached football, softball and track teams in Roanoke County Public Schools for 18 years.

E-mail: fminnix@rcs.k12.va.us

School Administration



Lorraine S. Lange, Ed.D *Superintendent*

Dr. Lange knows every facet of Roanoke County Public Schools having worked for more than 30 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, content supervisor, assistant superintendent and superintendent. She was named superintendent in 2006 and in 2009 was named one of the nation's Tech-Savvy Superintendents of the Year. Dr. Lange's motto for the school system is "Learning for all, whatever it takes."

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Comprehensive Plan

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Roanoke County Public Schools to ensure that all students participate in quality learning necessary to grow, adapt and meet the challenges of a changing world.

Beliefs & Assumptions

1. All children can learn.
2. The individual school controls enough variables to assure that virtually all children can be motivated to learn.
3. A school's stakeholders are the most qualified people to implement needed changes.
4. School-by-school change is the best hope for reform.

Goals:

Instruction

- Prepare all students, consistent with their ability and potential, to be productive citizens in a democratic and diverse society.
- Implement instructional practices and programs that enable students to meet established standards of achievement and foster life-long learning.
- Develop an instructional climate centered on dignity and respect.
- Meet or exceed state and federal guidelines for student achievement.

Human Resources

- Implement practices to support and assist teachers and support staff in the instruction of positive learning for all students.

Health and Safety

- Seek to maintain a safe, disciplined and healthy environment that nurtures physical, mental and emotional well-being, and the development of social and character competencies.

Community Relations

- Establish positive and effective communication initiatives to build an awareness of the Roanoke County Public School system.

Technology

- Improve administration and management of student learning environments and facilitate effective communication.

Facilities and Operations

- Supervise the construction of new facilities, update existing facilities, and oversee system upgrades to promote the educational process throughout the Roanoke County Public Schools.
- Provide support services to the Roanoke County School system in such a manner as to meet the needs of the school community in a safe and efficient way.

Budget and Finance

- Provide accurate and professional financial information for the use of board members, staff, and the community to make pro-active budgetary decisions, plan for future school division needs, assess past financial performance, and optimize the sharing of information.

Construction Updates

Renovations and expansions underway at four schools

The 2009-2010 school year kicked off with the beginning of several renovation and expansion projects at three elementary schools and one high school.

At Cave Spring Elementary, crews are adding a new administrative area, new entrance, new classrooms and are renovating much of the existing interior space. In addition, a new geothermal heating and cooling system is being installed. When completed, the geothermal system will dramatically reduce heating and cooling expenses.

At Green Valley Elementary, crews are adding a new entrance, new administrative wing, replacing the school kitchen and adding new classrooms for art and music. Throughout the school, existing classrooms are being renovated and updated.

At Mount Pleasant Elementary, work is underway to build a new administrative wing, a new, larger kitchen and cafeteria, a new entrance and several new classrooms. Existing classrooms are being updated and renovated with new lighting, fixtures and more. In addition, a geothermal heating and cooling system is being installed.

At William Byrd High School, work is underway to construct a new administrative wing and school entrance. The cafeteria and kitchen are being expanded and renovated. Several new classrooms are being added as well as a new auxiliary gym, locker rooms and weight lifting facility. Outside the school, crews are making several improvements to the school stadium including replacing the press box, installing a new scoreboard and updating the restrooms and concession areas.

“These improvements projects are long overdue,” said Dr. Lorraine Lange, superintendent. “Some of our facilities are starting to show their age and the school board felt it was important to take advantage of the current economic climate to improve some of our buildings for a fraction of what it would have cost a few years ago,” Dr. Lange added.

All four projects are expected to be completed by the end of the 2010-2011 school year.



Construction Updates

Construction begins on new Masons Cove Elementary

Built in 1961, Masons Cove Elementary is the only school in Roanoke County that still uses coal – for now. In early 2010, work began on a \$12.1 million dollar project to construct an entirely new Masons Cove Elementary.

The new school will be located behind the existing building, where the baseball field currently is located. Once the new school has been completed by winter 2012, the old school building will be demolished and will be replaced by a new baseball field.

The School Board first recognized the need to renovate or replace Masons Cove Elementary several years ago due to the building's age, deteriorating condition and poor energy efficiency.

"The school was built in 1961 and still has a coal-fired boiler," said Roanoke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Lange. "We're pleased we are able to move forward to address the needs of this school community," Lange said.

"We initially considered a renovation and expansion project for Masons Cove," said Catawba District school board member David Wymer. "We quickly discovered that building an entirely new school would be more cost-effective and give us the opportunity to take advantage of some new energy-efficient building designs. This will be one of the most energy-efficient school buildings in Virginia," Wymer said.

The new school will use many aspects of "green" building technology including geothermal heating and cooling, solar power and natural lighting. In addition, the project will make use of new advances in stormwater management, making a retention pond unnecessary.

For updates on this and other projects, please see the "Construction" page on the Roanoke County Public Schools Web site at <http://www.rcs.k12.va.us>.



Crews work to build the new Masons Cove Elementary while students will continue classes in the current building.



Artist's rendering of the front (left) and back (right) of the new school.

Student Enrollment

School	Principal	Students
Cave Spring High School	Steve Spangler	837
Glenvar High School	Joe Hafey	661
Hidden Valley High School	Rhonda Stegall	1154
Northside High School	Frank Dent	1019
William Byrd High School	Dr. Richard Turner	1158
Burton Center for Arts and Technology	Andrew McClung	(750*)
Cave Spring Middle School	Steven Boyer	603
Glenvar Middle School	Dr. Juliette Myers	414
Hidden Valley Middle School	Ken Nicely	762
Northside Middle School	Lori Wimbush	696
William Byrd Middle School	Janet Womack	908
Back Creek Elementary School	Karen Mabry	298
Bent Mountain Elementary School	Virginia Sharp	54
Bonsack Elementary School	Melissa Jones	447
Burlington Elementary School	Amy Shank	459
Cave Spring Elementary School	Jodi Poff	445
Clearbrook Elementary School	Karen Pendleton	230
Fort Lewis Elementary School	Kim Bradshaw	234
Glen Cove Elementary School	Jan Nichols	443
Glenvar Elementary School	Danny Guard	354
Green Valley Elementary School	Tammy Newcomb	359
Herman L. Horn Elementary School	Susan Brown	413
Mason's Cove Elementary School	Ashley McCallum	192
Mount Pleasant Elementary School	Ellen Walton	317
Mountain View Elementary School	Leigh Smith	449
Oak Grove Elementary School	Christina Flippen	536
Penn Forest Elementary School	Linda Wright	567
W.E. Cundiff Elementary School	Sherry Bryant	479
TOTAL ENROLLMENT (as of 5/31/10)		14,488

* Students enrolled at specialty schools are included in their home school's enrollment count

Enrollment figures do not include preschool classes

Student Performance

2008 - 2009 Standards of Learning (SOL) Results:

Figures represent the percentage of Roanoke County Public School students successfully passing the SOL test in each subject area.

Elementary Results	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Reading	90	91	96
Writing	--	--	91
Math	95	92	97
Science	92	--	95
Social Studies/VA Studies	95	94	--

Middle School Results			
English 6	91	Math 6	72
English 7	94	Math 7	78
English 8	92	Math 8	93
U.S. History to 1877	81	Algebra 1	100
U.S. History from 1877	94	Geometry	100
Civics	92	Science 8	94

High School credit-bearing courses	
Reading	97
Writing	98
Algebra I (including Algebra, part 2)	92
Algebra II	94
Geometry	90
Earth Science	94
Biology	92
Chemistry	95
VA/U.S. History	97
World History I	92
World History II	98
World Geography	91

-- means there is no SOL test for that subject in that grade

2009 Academic Results:

2009 average scores	SAT - Verbal	SAT - Math	SAT - Writing	ACT	AP (mean)
Roanoke County	515	516	504	23.2	3.21
Virginia	511	512	498	21.9	2.94
United States	501	515	493	21.1	2.88

- **2009 On-Time Graduation Rate: 89.8%** (Virginia average on-time graduation rate: 83.2%)
- **2009 Graduates: 1,173** - (673 Advanced Studies diplomas, 467 standard diplomas, 33 alternate diplomas)
- **More than 87% of graduates pursued some form of post-secondary education.**
- **848 students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams.**
- **954 students took dual-enrollment courses, earning college credit while attending a high school class.**
- **Roanoke County students earned \$5.19 million in scholarships in 2009.**
- **161 graduates successfully earned and passed an industry certification**

Student Achievements

Team Achievements:

- **Cave Spring H.S. boys basketball - State Champions (repeat)** (Group AA, Division III)
- **Glenvar H.S. wrestling - State Champions (repeat)** (Group A)
- **Hidden Valley girls Cross Country - State Champions** (Group AA)
- **Hidden Valley girls tennis - State Champions** (Group AA)
- **Hidden Valley girls swimming - State Champions** (Group AA)
- **Hidden Valley boys swimming 200m medley relay team - State Champions** (Group AA)
- **Northside H.S. softball - State Champions** (Group AA)
- **Northside H.S. football team - State Champions** (Group AA, Division III)
- **Northside H.S. yearbook staff - Pacemaker Award winners** (national award)
- **BCAT TeamWorks team - National Skills USA Team Point Certificate**



Northside H.S. Football coach Burt Torrence holds up the Group AA State Championship trophy. Northside football won their first-ever state title in 2009.

Individual Achievements:

- **Luke Munson (CSHS) - State Swimming Champion** (50 meter freestyle - Group AA)
- **Ali Horn (CSHS) - State Swimming Champion** (200 meters and 100 meter butterfly - Group AA)
- **Jackie Crawford (CSHS) - State Swimming Champion** (50 meter freestyle - Group AA)
- **Edi Ndem (CSHS) - State Indoor Track Champion** (Group AA)
- **Alex Asimakopolous (GHS) - State Wrestling Champion** (189 lbs. - Group A)
- **Kahlil Carazo (GHS) - State Wrestling Champion** (112 lbs. - Group A)
- **Zack Hill (GHS) - State Wrestling Champion** (160 lbs. - Group A)
- **Phillip Morris (GHS) - State High Jump Champion** (Group A)
- **Lauren Gray (HVHS) - State Swimming Champion** (500 meter freestyle - Group AA)
- **Kristen Harter (HVHS) - State Tennis Champion** (Singles - Group AA)
- **David Williams (HVHS) - State Wrestling Champion** (160 lbs. - Group AA)
- **Philip Scott (NHS) - State Indoor Track Champion** (55 meters - nearly broke state record)
- **Alain Diehl (WBHS) - State JROTC Individual Knockout Drill Champion**
- **Dylan Hoos (WBHS) - 1st place on WV/VA/NC state ski team and Southern Alpine Racing Association Athlete of the Year**

2009-10 Budget

2009 - 2010 Income	Amount	% of Total Operating Fund	Cost per Pupil
Local Appropriations (County)	\$60,543,357	43.9%	\$4,204
State Funds	\$58,512,936	42.4%	\$4,064
State Sales Tax	\$13,985,000	10.1%	\$971
Federal Funds	\$4,044,692	2.9%	\$281
Other Funds	\$823,143	0.6%	\$57
TOTAL INCOME	\$137,909,128	100.0%	\$9,577

2009 - 2010 Expenditures	Amount	% of Total Operating Fund
Classroom Instruction	\$101,229,594	73.4%
Administration	\$3,570,820	2.6%
Attendance and Health	\$2,570,630	1.9%
Pupil Transportation	\$5,111,958	3.7%
Operation and Maintenance	\$12,560,709	9.1%
Technology	\$3,236,934	2.3%
Facilities	\$316,556	0.2%
Other uses of funds	\$9,311,927	6.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$137,909,128	100%

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has again awarded the Meritorious Budget Award to the Budget and Finance Department of Roanoke County Public Schools for excellence in the preparation and issuance of the 2009-10 annual budget.

The Meritorious Budget Award is only conferred to school systems that have met or exceeded the Meritorious Budget Award Program criteria. ASBO is a professional association of about 5,500 members that provides programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth and the effective use of educational resources. Only 13 school systems in Virginia received this award for 2009-10.

Weathering the Storm

The best of times, the worst of times

“A problem is a chance to do your best.”
– Duke Ellington

The 2009-2010 school year presented plenty of problems, most especially with the budget. On one hand, we saw some of the best opportunities for capital improvements, while, at the same time, we had to make painful decisions in order to reduce operational costs.



Students at Bent Mountain Elementary leave school for the final time.

Throughout the year the superintendent and the staff worked to find cost savings in every department. From small savings like eliminating the printed school calendar to much larger savings like closing facilities and eliminating programs, the superintendent and her staff reduced the overall operational budget by about \$9.1 million.

The reason for all these cuts was due to cuts in state funding. Roanoke County Public Schools receives a little more than half our funding from the State of Virginia. In the 2009 session, the General Assembly cut the amount of funding for K-12 education. Our state funding was cut by \$7.4 million. The General Assembly made even more cuts in the 2010 session, reducing our state funding by an additional \$12.2 million.

As a result of these cuts, the superintendent and the school board were forced to make painful decisions in order to maintain the high standards of education in Roanoke County. The most difficult of all was to close Bent Mountain Elementary in June 2010 after 99 years of teaching students.

“Closing Bent Mountain was one of the hardest decisions I’ve ever had to make,” said Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Lange. “I want to express my sincere appreciation to the community and staff at Bent Mountain for their cooperation as we transition Bent Mountain students into Back Creek Elementary,” Dr. Lange added.

While the economic climate seemed dire, it actually could have been even worse had it not been for the support of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors. For several years the Roanoke County School Board and the Board of Supervisors have maintained a revenue sharing agreement. This agreement provided \$3 million in new funding to help prevent layoffs of full-time contracted employees.

“When we started working on this budget, I was very worried we would have to layoff employees,” Dr. Lange said. “The Board of Supervisors and the School Board worked together to provide the funding to avoid this. For that we all are very thankful,” Dr. Lange said.

The silver lining to the current economic situation is that every school and department is looking at new ways to work more efficiently while maintaining quality instruction in the classroom. Greater use of online resources and new ways to reduce utility expenses have helped ensure more funding is being used where it’s most needed: the classroom.

An Award-Winning Staff

Roanoke County Public Schools staff members earn many different awards each year. Here is just a sampling of the awards and recognition our staff have earned during the 2009-2010 school year.

- **NAMM Foundation Top Communities for Music education (7th time since 2002)**
- **Virginia Nominee for the Kennedy Center KCAAEN Award**
- **2009 Technology Teacher of the Year (Meg Swecker)**
- **2009 Governor's Caregiver Award (Karen Switzer)**
- **2010 State Elementary Math Teacher of the Year (Deidre Clifford)**
- **2010 Secondary Art Teacher of the Year (Anne Pfeiffer)**
- **VSBA Design Award (Northside H.S. renovation)**
- **VSBA Honor Your High School Award (Northside H.S.)**
- **2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence for the following schools**
 - Cave Spring Elementary (repeat winner)
 - Clearbrook Elementary
 - Hidden Valley High School (three-time winner)
- **14 schools and the division as a whole earned the 2010 Board of Education Excellence Award**
- **5 schools received the 2010 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award**
- **Certificate of Achievement and Excellence in Financial Reporting**
- **Distinguished Title I school division**
- **Distinguished Title I schools (* - repeat winners)**
 - Clearbrook Elementary*
 - Glen Cove Elementary*
 - Green Valley Elementary*
 - Mount Pleasant Elementary*
 - Mountain View Elementary
- **2010 Virginia School Nutrition Awards:**
 - President's Award for Excellence: Kimberly Stevens (HVHS)
 - Physical & Nutrition Education Award: Kimberly Stevens (HVHS)
 - State Marketing Award: Lynne Fobare (Mason's Cove Elem.)
 - Louise Sublette Award: Kathy Stackpole (Bonsack Elem.)
- **For the 2009 Annual Report:**
 - PRSA-Blue Ridge Gold Summit Award
 - PRSA-Richmond Captial Award of Merit
 - Hermes Gold Award (for overall design)
 - Hermes Platinum Award (for photography)
- **For the 2009 Pack The Bus campaign:**
 - PRSA-Blue Ridge Silver Summit Award
 - NSPRA Golden Achievement Award
- **Hermes Gold Award for the school division Web site**



Teaching Awards

William Byrd Middle School teacher wins 2010 McGlothlin Award

Top prizes in the 2010 McGlothlin Awards for Teaching Excellence, including \$25,000 checks, were presented April 13 to two teachers including Steve Sizemore from William Byrd Middle School.

Jennifer Barger from Glenvar Elementary and Sharon Hill from Glenvar Middle School were finalists for the award.

“All McGlothlin Winners, including each of this year’s six finalists, make a world of difference in educating the children in our region,” said Thomas D. McGlothlin, during the awards ceremony at Radford University. McGlothlin, president of the Bristol, Va.-based McGlothlin Foundation, added, “Our foundation created an award for teaching excellence because we know how much the future of our region depends on education. We want to keep the best teachers in the profession and to positively influence all teachers by demonstrating how much their community values what they do for us all.”

Sizemore, a sixth grade history teacher, embraces technology tools in his classroom. He has developed an extensive class Web site, and frequently uses computer learning games and an interactive whiteboard to engage his students. Sizemore has also used Skype and an Internet communications tool to connect live with classrooms in Richmond and Charlottesville, where students were studying the same history content.



Holly Wakeland accepts the Hollins University Teaching Award from Hollins president Nancy Gray

William Byrd High School teacher wins 2010 Hollins Univ. Education Award

Holly Wakeland, a teacher at William Byrd High School has been named the winner of the 2010 Hollins University Teaching Award. The award was presented May 23 during the university’s 168th Commencement Exercises. Wakeland, who teaches English, received a \$2,000 award and accepted a \$1,000 check on behalf of William Byrd.

The award honors secondary school teachers who have devoted their lives to preparing students to achieve and excel in a higher education setting. Each year, Hollins seniors are invited to nominate the teachers who inspired them or contributed significantly to their intellectual and personal growth.

Wakeland was nominated by Hollins senior Amber Hylton, who recalled that during her high school years, “Ms. Wakeland quickly became the one that I looked to for encouragement and guidance....[She] told me that can do anything I put my mind to... [S]he assured me daily that I have the talent and work ethic to get through college.



Steve Sizemore, Jennifer Barger and Sharon Hill



Supporting Our Community

RCPS and Q-99 team up to Pack the Bus to help students with school supplies

Each year, thousands of students across the Roanoke Valley begin their school year without basic school supplies necessary for educational success. In an effort to provide school supplies for needy children, Roanoke County Public Schools joined radio station Q-99 FM, local Walmart stores and other area school systems to coordinate and promote a series of school supply drives, called "Pack The Bus." This partnership celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2009.

The 2009 Pack the Bus campaign was the most successful ever in the history of the event with more than \$50,000 raised overall (for all school systems) and more than \$5,000 raised for Roanoke County students alone.

The Walmart Foundation donated about \$3,000 to Roanoke County Public Schools, and several other groups donated an additional \$1,200 plus an estimated \$800 worth of donated school supplies.

"We would not be able to provide school supplies for students in need without the help of our community partners like Q-99, Walmart, Suntrust and others. We are very grateful for their annual support and look forward to more successful Pack the Bus events," said Community Relations Specialist Chuck Lionberger.



School Board Chairman Mike Stovall (left) and Q-99's Dick Daniels (right) shop for school supplies.

Education Foundation awards more than \$20,000 in scholarships to teachers

Teachers have some great ideas to help foster and enhance learning. Each year the Roanoke County Education Foundation awards classroom scholarships to teachers so they can make those ideas into reality.

"Great teachers are the key to a great education. We want to be able to help teachers find and use those methods that will help students learn," said Education Foundation President Lenora Downing.

For the 2009-2010 school year, 90 teachers at 25 schools received 75 grants for a total of \$20,280.29. In addition, the Education Foundation awarded about \$60,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors.

The Education Foundation raises funds to support the scholarship programs through the annual golf tournament in the fall and a winter telephone fundraising drive. If you are interested in supporting the Education Foundation, please call Jean Wynn at 562-3900 or go online to <http://www.supportroanokecountyed.org>.

ROANOKE COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Lenora Downing, President
National College
- Doug Eggleston, Vice-President
BB&T
- Michael Mulvaney, Treasurer
US Foodservice - Roanoke Division
- Tracey Thompson, Secretary
Thompson Chiropractic Clinic
- Thomas Becher, APR
TBA Agency
- Lynn Cauley
Graham-White Manufacturing
- Joe Cundiff
Atlantic Bay Mortgage
- Beth Doughty
Roanoke Regional Partnership
- Rob Hendren
Stop In Food Stores
- Dr. Lorraine Lange
Roanoke County Schools
- Rick Ramsuer
Kroger
- Cindy Smith
Blue Ridge Copier
- Jamie Soltis
Roanoke County Schools/GHS
- Lew Thompson
State Farm
- Tara Wiedeman
Carilion Clinic

Tomorrow's Forecast

While we've weathered the storm this year, the forecast for 2010-11 and beyond isn't looking much better. Early economic signs indicate any financial recovery will be slow. For Roanoke County Public Schools, this means we will continue to examine every facet of what we do in order to find savings. Already the superintendent and school board are working to identify areas where costs can be reduced.

Some highlights of the 2010-11 budget are:

- No layoffs for full-time contracted employees
- 92 retirees (many vacated positions will be eliminated)
- No employee raises
- No employee increase in the health premiums (the required increase will be paid from the health reserves for 2010-11)
- No charge to employees for the Va. Retirement System
- Closure of Bent Mountain Elementary - students will be moved to Back Creek Elementary
- Elimination of the Central Middle School program
- Elimination of eleven central office positions (in addition to 13 in the 2008-2009 budget)
- Combination of driver's education and health curriculum
- Elimination of nutrition subsidy
- Transition of R.E. Cook alternative education program to Hope Tree Family Services
- Elimination of Stanford 10 funding (test will be funded with another source)
- Elimination of 6th grade intramurals
- Reduction in debt service due to competitive construction bids this year
- Reduction in elementary assistant principals contracts from 260 to 230 days to equalize all elementary assistant principal positions
- Reduction in Governor's School tuition of 20%
- Reduction in preschool spending (but increase in slots available to state standards)
- Increase in preschool tuition for the LEAP program



In an effort to re-balance schools in southwest Roanoke County, the School Board decided in early 2010 to implement a redistricting plan which will shift some students from one school to another.

This redistricting plan will be implemented in several phases. Phase I will involve the elementary schools beginning with the 2011-2012 school year while Phase II will be implemented for the secondary schools in the 2012-2013 school year. For more information about the upcoming redistricting plan, go online to <http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/news/scountyredistrict/>.

"While we may need to keep our umbrellas out for a little while longer, one thing remains constant. We will keep our focus on what's most important: instruction," said Superintendent Lorraine Lange.

At the end of the rainbow: A look back at the year...



Glenvar Middle School students meet Governor Kaine.



Mt. Pleasant Elem. reading coordinator Jim Booan kisses a pig as part of a reading incentive program.



Hidden Valley High School students form a human pink ribbon in honor of breast cancer awareness.



Students from WBHS rock out during BandFest 2010 at Northside Middle School.



Oak Grove Elementary holds a parade to celebrate its 50th anniversary.



Students learn to navigate a sailboat during the summer outdoor P.E. program.



Parents, staff and students help break ground for the construction of the new Masons Cove Elementary.



Green Valley Elem. students give a performance about famous Virginians.



Burlington Elem. principal Amy Shank plants a tree during the school's Arbor Day celebration.



Seniors Sydney Smith and Ashley Stocks perform a song during Cave Spring High School's graduation.



Michael Leistman carries the torch during the Special Olympics at Glenvar High School.