

December 5, 2021

Dear VASS Executive Committee Members and Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the Virginia Association of School Superintendents' (VASS) Executive Director position. In my thirty-second year as a Virginia public school educator, I have served in multiple VASS regions and held varied leadership roles serving diverse populations ranging from suburban to rural to urban settings. I am currently completing my eleventh year as Superintendent of Schools in Frederick County, and I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to support the talented 133 school Superintendents in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

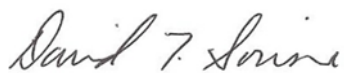
As a Superintendent, I have consistently supported VASS initiatives through routinely engaging in and frequently assuming leadership roles during the Fall, Winter, and Spring conferences, as well as serving in various capacities to meet the special needs of the organization. In particular, as the VASS Legislative Chair for the past five years, I have faithfully represented the membership by speaking at the General Assembly's Budget Public Hearings, as well as consistently advocated for the membership's legislative priorities at key decision making General Assembly Committee meetings. Additionally, as one of two Virginia representatives on the AASA Governing Board, on numerous occasions, I have been called upon to speak on Capitol Hill on key issues impacting K-12 Public Education, such as accountability, funding, and the teacher shortage.

Perhaps, most significantly, over the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as an Executive Coach for the Virginia Superintendents' Leadership Academy (VSLA), a role that has been invigorating and inspiring. The VSLA professional learning experience, along with my experience as a Regional Site Coordinator and Adjunct Professor for James Madison University's Graduate Leadership program, have both been motivating and career changing for driving my desire to support and grow the next generation of Public School Leaders in the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, over my tenure as Superintendent, I have prided myself in being a highly visible and relational leader recognized for listening to the needs of diverse stakeholders and for working cooperatively with constituents to resolve complex issues. By fostering a collaborative and open engagement process for all stakeholders, I have been able to increase ownership, trust and community support in navigating the complexities of the pandemic while forging forward with innovative instructional initiatives. Therefore, it is my desire to use these experiences and skills to enhance the strong influence that VASS imparts to strengthen K12 public education during these unparalleled times.

I am truly excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with the VASS staff, Board of Directors, and the membership to support the needs of Division Leaders and students in the Commonwealth. I greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



David T. Sovine, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

References:

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